

I oppose the proposed Rocky Hill coal mine development for the following reasons:

- The mine is located too close to the residential areas of Gloucester and will have negative impacts on the town's amenity as well as on individual property values.
- Surrounding rural properties would be made unsaleable.
- Long-established agricultural activities would continue to be displaced.
- Too many aspects of mine operation and management of impacts have been left out of the EIS on the grounds that they would be covered in management plans that would not be developed until after the project is approved.
- No cost-benefit analysis of the project has been presented.
- Potential royalties to the State appear to be greatly overestimated.
- The net employment increase for Gloucester residents would be small (only 15 - 30 jobs), which would be outweighed by the negative effects on the Gloucester community.
- Noise from the mine - especially intrusive low-frequency noise - would affect large numbers of residences in and around Gloucester, especially in the Forbesdale, Avon and Thunderbolts residential estates.
- Mine noise would commonly exceed the regulatory limits on winter nights.
- Proposed compensations for residents affected by noise are inadequate.
- Dust from the mine would have health and nuisance effects on hundreds of residents.
- Road traffic to and from the mine would be far greater than the existing local traffic, and would put unacceptable pressure on the Shire Council's road maintenance resources.
- The mine is located on a floodplain in the catchment of the Manning River, which supplies drinking water to major towns downstream.
- The potential impacts of the mine on sub-surface water are not adequately understood.
- The scenic values that the important tourism industry depends on would be seriously degraded.

- The mine would result in the clearing of remnants of dry rainforest, which is recognized as a vulnerable ecological community.
- The mine would have impacts on threatened birds and mammals, and would be likely to result in the complete loss of the populations of squirrel gliders and grey-crowned babblers currently in the proposed mine area.