

27 October 2013
Director, Mining Projects
Development Assessment Systems and Approvals
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir,

Rocky Hill Coal Project – Development Application SSD-5156

I wish to **oppose** the above application. It represents one more mining operation which will destroy the agricultural value of the Gloucester area, as well as adversely affecting the future expansion of employment of local people in the tourist industry. No one wants to visit a place surrounded by open-cut coalmines, and once the coal has gone, and the few associated jobs, there is no way the area can be restored to its former state. Land values are affected, and residents' lives destroyed.

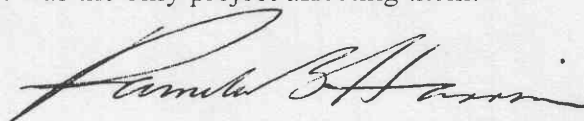
The submission by the applicant appears to be deficient in a number of areas. Having experienced the **noise** from the Stratford mine, despite its distance from my property, and having seen the lights at night reflected from the clouds, I know from experience that "scientific" assessment of noise does not take into account topography and weather conditions. The fact that the application acknowledges that some people will be affected should be sufficient to withhold permission, as surely people are more important than profits, especially in an industry which produces health risks to the community as well as to workers.

Where is the assessment of 2.5 mu and smaller **dust** particles – the ones most likely to affect health? Asbestos was known to be harmful to health in the 1930s but governments ignored the facts then, and who suffered as a result?

Biodiversity Offsets are an environmental joke –who directs the flora and fauna to their new "home" after their ideal habitat has been destroyed? From past experience I find that these areas are usually in the path of future expansion of mines and have no long term value anyway.

I note the firm contributing to the ground water reports accepts no responsibility for its report. This is understandable since it is so limited and there are so many unknowns.

I am concerned at having to submit objections to so many mining projects in the Gloucester area. You and the Government should pause and look at the over-all effect of the multiple mines on the environment and people, instead of treating each one individually as though it was the only project affecting them.



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