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Barrington NSW 2422

(PO Box 332
GLOUCESTER NSW 2422)

Director, Mining Projects
Development Assessment Systems & Approvals
Dept of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

28 October, 2013

Dear Sir,

ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT – DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SSD-5156

I wish to express my opposition to the above development application by Gloucester Resources Limited (GRL) for an open cut coal mine close to the township of Gloucester.

The application poses many threats to the area:

- To my mind the most important is the **threat to water**. We live in a country where water should be the receive the highest level of protection from our government. The Avon River is part of the catchment area for the Manning River, and the source of water for a large area of the mid North Coast. Given the delicate and fractured geology of this area, I call upon you to invoke the precautionary principal and reject the possible damage that could be done to the water supply.
- The **location** of the proposed mine is far too close to residential areas and properties, as well as the local pre-schools, schools and the hospital.
- Research has shown many of the **health hazards** in living close to a coal mine, and the threat that **coal dust particles** pose, particularly to children and older people, who form a high percentage of the population of the area, and current legislation does not even consider the dangerous small particles under 2.5 microns. **Noise** is also a major concern, be it from blasting, coal loading or transfers. The effect of **blasting** will be felt by people living considerable distances from the site.
- Whilst GRL claim they will provide employment for local people, it has been the experience of other places that the workforce is largely made up of “**drive in/drive out**” **workers**. The probable impact of these workers on the township, both socially and economically, needs much greater consideration. For e.g. rental prices are likely to be raised, putting them out of reach of current local residents, and forcing them to move elsewhere.
- **Tourism** is one of the major industries in the area, bringing in excess of \$30million pa. Who will want to visit a mining town, even if they could find accommodation,

which will become virtually unobtainable when taken up by itinerant mine workers.

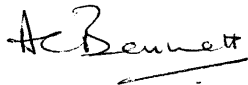
- Many existing **job opportunities** available to local people will be lost, especially in the agricultural and tourism areas.
- There are many endemic species of **flora and fauna** whose habitats will be destroyed, resulting in their demise.
- Experience has shown that once a mine has received approval, it usually seeks to **expand** . One only has to look at the so-called “boutique” mines at Stratford and Duralie, who claimed they would be gone in 10 years from their original approval, and see what they are now trying to do.
- The **cumulative social, economic and environmental effects** need to be taken into consideration before approving additional mining operations in this area.

I fail to understand how a Government who is supposedly there to serve the interest of the people who voted them into office, can so disregard the concerns and wishes of local citizens and permit a mine in an area that was designated by the local council (Gloucester Shire Council) as an Environmental Conservation Area.

I therefore call upon you to reject this application.

I confirm that I have made no reportable political donations.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AC Bennett', with a horizontal line underneath.

Angela Carol Bennett (Mrs)