

Matthew DiMaggio - Submission Opposing the Rocky Hill Coal Project - SSD5156

From: Andrea Sage <normandy@skymesh.com.au>
To: <information@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/26/2013 4:53 PM
Subject: Submission Opposing the Rocky Hill Coal Project - SSD5156

NOTE These are Dept of Planning MANDATORY fields.

My NAME is: Andrea Sage

My Full ADDRESS is: 736 Waukivory Rd Gloucester

Dear Sir, I oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Mine Project.

1) Health. To establish an open-cut coal mine so close to residential areas (in some cases less than 1km from proposed mine site) is in my opinion completely irresponsible. We now have sufficient evidence to prove that the air quality in the area will become very poor due to coal dust in the atmosphere and the burning of diesel which can lead to asthma, chronic lung disease, cardiovascular disease and lung cancer. The burning of diesel is now identified as a Class one Carcinogen by the World Health Organisation. David Suzuki – Canadian scientist and environmentalist visited Australia in the middle of September and I heard him state that ‘clean air is the top of our basic needs’. Also carcinogenic toxic metals are slowly released from disposal sites and may contaminate waterways etc. Dr Dick van Steenis, a retired UK GP who has researched the effects of coal-mining on health for over 15 yrs stated the death rate in Singleton to be 137% of the average and the worst in Australia. The killing agents are the PM1 and PM2.5 particles that are breathed into the lungs. Research is also proving that children living in polluted areas have a significant drop in IQ levels.

Mining companies, like any other industry that wishes to operate alongside your schools, homes and work places, have a duty to respond to community concerns. Failing to do so puts the economic and social future of this region at risk. The Queensland coal industry and government are looking seriously at addressing particulate emissions from coal trains for example and a serious study has revealed that covering coal trains alone reduces dust emissions by 99%! In GRL’s EIS it is stated ‘total suspended emissions are estimated at up to 912 tonnes per year of which 356 tonnes will be PM10’. Coal dust is found primarily in PM10 emissions. I believe China has been covering coal train wagons for 15 years! Sadly, our community's health suffers for coal company profits and greed.

I have recently been diagnosed with emphysema – have never smoked nor my husband and neither have my parents. I will not be able to live in a polluted environment and houses in Gloucester are not selling because of the potential of the proposed new mine – I am stuck between a rock and a hard place – what are people in my situation supposed to do. I heard Andrew Stoner state that he wouldn’t like a coal mine in his back yard! Just wonderful – it seems I may have no choice.

2) Noise, including regular blasting is also a health concern. Sleep interruption and deprivation and infrasound has the potential to cause many health issues including anxiety and depression in the community. My husband has a hearing problem which will be aggravated by an increased background noise level.

3) Food and water security for the region. Because of pollution in the air as well as the possibility of water contamination, the future security for our food and water is in question. The Avon River feeds into the catchment for the Manning area water supply and it would be devastating if this water source

became further compromised.

4) Psychological stress due to uncertainty for the future is real – property values have already decreased and homes are difficult to sell. Where there is a necessity to sell your home, e.g. as you age and can't manage your property, one is unable to do so.

5) Wind. My interpretation of the wind rose graphs (EIS fig 4.4, 4-10) does not agree with the first sentence, that “prevailing winds are from the north-east and south”. I have no expertise whatsoever in deciphering wind roses but it appears to me that the roses show clearly that the predominant wind strength and direction is from the south thus blowing contaminants all over Gloucester.

6) Tourism. In 2011 data showed Gloucester as having a tourism industry worth well over \$30 million. (The \$30 million figure is only the Domestic Overnight Visitor spend – daytrippers and international visitors are not included). Who will want to visit Gloucester if we become part of the typical Hunter Valley moonscape with coal and overburden heaps lining the Bucketts Way?

I fully understand that there currently exists a need for mining in Australia and that the royalties that are received by NSW are necessary. I do not, however, understand that we need to approve mining in any and every location regardless of the impact that it has on the land and the people that surround it. There are already 2 coal mines in this area and CSG approved – that is sufficient. We should not be establishing any new coal mines in Australia – we should be looking at establishing alternate energy in infrastructures capable of employing many Australians on a long-term basis.

I have not made a reportable political donation.

Yours sincerely, Andrea Sage New South Wales 2422, Australia