

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

From: David Besier <dhbesier@optusnet.com.au>
To: <information@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/27/2013 8:36 PM
Subject: Submission Opposing the Rocky Hill Coal Project - SSD5156

Dear Sir,

My name is David Besier and I oppose the development of the Rocky Hill Coal Mine Project.

In 2006, my parents, Rod and Robin Besier purchased approximately five acres of property in the Forbesdale Residential Estate.

The reasons they chose Forbesdale were compelling; along with the stunning views of The Bucketts and the Mograni Range, the township of Gloucester and its strong sense of community convinced them that this was a place that they could invest in and make it their home.

The proposed Rocky Hill Coal Mine will erode, both figuratively and literally, the town of Gloucester, its environs and the quality of life of its people.

Today, my parents face the prospect of having an open cut coal mine just 900 metres from the estate's boundary. Most of the Gloucester township, including the hospital and schools, are within five kilometres of the proposed mine's impact zone.

The proximity, size and nature of a mining operation will have a detrimental, permanent impact on the town and its surrounds. If approved, noise, dust and traffic generated by the operations will be pervasive. Furthermore, the proposed mine sits on the Avon river floodplain, a water catchment area of the Manning River that supplies drinking water to more than 80,000 people. In the past four years, the Avon River has flooded five times, with the most recent floods occurring twice in February of this year.

While there is always uncertainty in what the future will deliver, the property market has made it very clear that the nature of mining activities are deleterious to those who live in Gloucester. If Forbesdale can be seen as a bellwether of what is to come for Gloucester, the value of the land and homes of those living there has already decreased because of the prospect of the mine's development .

Like Henry and Eliza, Gloucester will find that once The Bucketts has a hole, a solution to the resultant problems will be very hard to find.

I have not made a political donation.

Yours sincerely,

David Besier 7 Thompson Street Gladesville NSW 2111 Australia