

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

From: Terry Hardwick <Hardwicktj@bigpond.com>
To: <information@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 10/28/2013 11:46 AM
Subject: Submission Opposing the Rocky Hill Coal Project - SSD5156

NOTE These are Dept of Planning MANDATORY fields.

My NAME is:

My Full ADDRESS is:806 Upper -Avon Road, Stratford. 2422

Dear Sir,

I oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Mine Project on the grounds of its near-proximity to Gloucester; noise and health effects for residents; the impact on the tourism and other industries in the area; the fact that it will be located on the Avon River floodplain (this is really unbelievable); and the cumulative effects of another mine operating in the Vale of Gloucester.

Proximity – The mine boundary will be situated 900metres from Forbesdale Residential Estate of 35 families. Those families will experience unacceptable levels of noise, dust, and traffic. Many have suffered health problems from the stress caused by the threat of an open cut coal mine so close to their homes.

Noise – I live 8 km from the expanding Stratford coal mine and I know, depending on the wind, that we can hear the mine working there as well as having black deposits on our rainwater-collecting roof. Rocky Hill mine will cause high levels of noise for residents close to the mine workings and train loading area but also unacceptable levels of noise for residents in Gloucester town.

No amount of monitoring or measuring will stop the noise impact for the residents of Gloucester.

Health – Most of Gloucester township (including the hospital and schools) falls within the acknowledged 5km health impact zone of the Rocky Hill mine – thus placing a large proportion of the population at risk. Those most affected by the health impacts are our children, the old and the sick. Are the people of Gloucester just collateral damage?

Impact on Tourism – Visitors come to Gloucester to experience the peaceful, country lifestyle. This is a beautiful district with clean rivers and another coal mine will have a major adverse impact on the visual amenity of the area. Tourism is currently worth over \$30M to the Gloucester economy. It will be impacted with a resultant loss of jobs and income generated in the township.

Employment – Companies in town are already experiencing the negative impacts of having a mine nearby. One company lost 11 apprentices to the Stratford mine, down the valley. Mining is good for employment for a short time if you want to work in a mine but it is a completely unsustainable industry and should not be allowed when there are other employers in the district.

Water – The location of the proposed Rocky Hill mine is on the Avon River floodplain, and in the water catchment area of the Manning River which supplies drinking water to over 80,000 people. The Avon River has flooded 5 times in 4 years, with 2 floods occurring in February this year. There is real potential for contamination of the water in the catchment.

Cumulative Impacts – If approved, the Rocky Hill coal mine won't be operating in isolation in the Gloucester Valley. Yancoal has requested expansion of its mine at Stratford and AGL is planning on 330 CSG wells in the Valley – many of AGL's wells are to be placed within the Rocky Hill mine and the Stratford mine area. No other area in NSW has coal and CSG companies fighting over the same piece of land. To not consider the cumulative impacts of this mining is reckless and irresponsible and to leave Gloucester out of the NSW 2km coal-mine exclusion zone is one of the worst decisions your government has made.

I have not made a reportable political donation.

Yours sincerely, Terry Hardwick New South Wales 2422, Australia