

20th October 2013

Director, Mining Projects

Development Assessment Systems & Approvals

Department of Planning & Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Sir

Re: Development Application SSD 5156 – Rocky Hill Coal Project –Forbesdale

I live at 19 Grantham Rd with my parents and my younger brother and have done so since our house was completed in 2005.

As a young man who is in the middle of completing my HSC, I would like to let you know how the thought of having a coalmine within a stone's throw of our home, has affected our lives over the past few years, and more so for me in the last few weeks. Why I have to worry about anything at the moment, apart from my HSC, is beyond me. I am hoping that it does not affect me to the point that I do not receive the marks I require to go to university to study engineering.

I probably feel more sorry for my parents than I do for my brother and I, though I have found it a struggle at times while studying for the HSC, when I see the emotional stress that it is putting on both of them, even though they try to hide it from us. They are struggling with the thought that they will have to live next to the coalmine and put up with the noise, dust and lights that will be generated from its operation. They are extremely concerned for our health and especially the health of my 87 year old grandfather who lives with us and also the fact that they will have to change the way we live. What makes it even harder is the realisation that they could not sell our home unless they were prepared to give it away. Dad does not want to give it away, but mum is adamant that she will not be living here if the mine goes ahead. She is continually in tears and I can see the affects that this has put on their relationship.

I find it hard to understand how anyone could give approval for this project to go ahead, when you take into consideration, just how close it is to Gloucester and the subdivisions attached to it. It is not as though we are separate to the town itself as we have town sewerage and water connected to our house. The land that has been acquired for the coalmine, has, since we moved in, been flooded a number of times and there are two creeks that run through that same area. The government, quite rightly, stop proposed developments from occurring due to the environmental impacts that could, or would occur to an area, if various operations went ahead. With this in mind, how could they allow this development to take place? Is it that money speaks all languages, and environmental impacts only matter when there is not a major financial benefit for the government?

I hope that the government makes the correct decision, and declines this proposal altogether. This would allow us to return to living a normal life without all the stress. If the decision is made to pass it, there should be reasonable compensation paid to the people that it affects so they are able to move on.

I have not made any political donations.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Reynolds

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