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21/10/2013

Director, Mining Projects  
Development Assessment Systems and Approvals  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir,

**ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT – DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SSD-5156.**

I am writing to oppose the Gloucester Resources Ltd's development application for an open cut coal mine. My reasons are as follows:

**Distance from the Mine.**

My family and I live on a rural property identified in the Rocky Hill Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as residence number 163A. We are 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmers and own, operate and reside at "Avon Park" a highly productive cattle farm (something not recognized in the EIS).

Our recently renovated home is only 1170 metres from the proposed coal loader and 2.8kms from the proposed main pit. We purposely built our home with a north eastern aspect not only to capitalize on the view but to utilize the cooling Nor-easterly breezes (which was identified as one of the main wind directions in the EIS) during the summer. We will now be living directly downwind of a (proposed) coal mine. Wind blowing over coal dumps and exposed overburden will be transferring dust and directly towards us, our property and our rain water tanks.

**Noise and Health**

This proposed mine and coal loader is far too close to Gloucester, residential estates and rural / residential properties. Noise and coal dust from coal train movements during the day and at night is of great concern. The main North coast rail line dissects our property and our house is 125metres from the rail line. There are currently very few train movements past our home during the night time hours. The Rocky Hill EIS has indicated that the majority of the coal train movements will occur during the night. Our home has been identified in the Rocky Hill EIS as being affected by noise and is within the Noise Management Zone. Any increase in noise from the coal loader, coal conveyer or rail traffic during the night, especially fully loaded coal trains under full power exiting the rail loop WILL have an effect on our quality of life.

The Rocky Hill EIS has stated that they will have noise monitoring devices at the two residential estates on the outskirts of Gloucester. There has been no indication of any noise monitoring devices in close proximity of the coal loader. Land owners to the south and the west of coal loader and main pit require the noise to be monitored

We have a family of 3 young children and my wife and I work long hours and therefore require adequate rest and a stress free environment. Two of our three children also have Asthma. We are fearful for their health status declining further if this mine goes ahead.

#### **Light Pollution.**

Throughout the EIS emphasis is not given to the lighting that will be required during construction and operation of the mine. The EIS states that the hours of construction of the coal loader will be between 7am and 6pm. If the loader is constructed during the winter months when the days are shorter and sunset on the shortest day (June 21) is at 4:45pm local time, extra lighting will be needed. This has not been considered in the EIS.

The placement of lighting towers on overburden dumps needs to be controlled. We have had recent experience of light pollution when the Stratford Coal Mine (now Yancoal) opened. The original Stratford pit was over 6km away but the light interference still managed to disturb our sleeping patterns. The Rocky Hill Mine will be less than half that distance and will have a higher elevation if the lighting towers are on top of overburden dumps.

#### **Land Zoning**

The proposed Rocky Hill Mine will impact on the Agricultural zoning on which it has been designated. It will destroy the Gloucester Valley and its community. I do not accept that the proposed mine will stay at its proposed size.

Whilst not opposed to mining in general, I believe that the Rocky Hill Mine will have a devastating effect on the Gloucester district. It will be distressing for me personally and will have a shocking effect on a large number of people.

Please REFUSE GRL's development application.

I have made no political donations

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Bignell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Steven Bignell