

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013

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

**PROJECT NAME: ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT**

**PROJECT No.: SSD 5156**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I support the Rocky Hill Coal Project going ahead due to the positive impact it will have on the community of Gloucester. The project will be providing employment for locals and injecting money into local businesses whilst still providing empathy to the environment through every extent possible.

GRL has noted a commitment to local employment making up the majority of those people working at the mine. This is crucial to the sustainability of the town of Gloucester and without it, Gloucester will not survive. Not only will this provide financial stability for those people working at the mine, however, also the knock on effect to surrounding businesses and the additional money that will be spent throughout the community. The employment will additionally bring people to the area, further contributing to the economy of the Gloucester community that is clearly in dire need of renewal.

The Rocky Hill Coal Project not only provides benefits whilst the mine is in operation, but also past the operational period. This includes improvements to local infrastructure that will remain long after the mine has ceased operation. The community grants program that will be implemented will also provide benefits to the community through allowing them to decide what projects money gets spent on.

I haven't been involved in the mining industry for the past 20 years but I do see this as a positive to the Gloucester community as long as the correct control and policies are put into place to ensure all operations of the site comply with development controls and policies.

Please Note: I have not made any reportable political donation in the past two years.

Regards,

## POTENTIAL POINTS OF SUPPORT FOR THE ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT

### JOBS

- Jobs are needed in Gloucester
- An opportunity to provide up to new 100 construction jobs and 150 operational jobs should not be lost
- A diversity of employment opportunities is needed in Gloucester- existing businesses are laying people off and other businesses are hurting
- I believe that the planned mine will provide an employment future for the youth of the area, in the area
- There are few job opportunities for young people/school leavers in Gloucester other than the family farm. The Rocky Hill mine will provide both direct and indirect opportunities for employment

### ECONOMIC

- The opportunity for an injection of over \$18million annually into the local economy should not be lost and nor should the potential benefits arising from the \$7-8million provide to the community through GRL's community grants program
- Gloucester needs new developments if it is to survive. It will never become the food bowl for NSW because the land is generally poor, has acidic soils and is of low productivity. The absence of Class 1 and 2 land and the minimal class 3 land in the 100 or more square km of the proposed mine site demonstrates this
- Experience shows that with mining, property values increase, not decrease as claimed by some
- The local, NSW and Australian economies need the \$250million, \$1.3billion and \$3.6billion boost provided by the Project
- NSW needs to demonstrate that it is not only open for business but an attractive place for investment, with projects such as Rocky Hill that are scientifically, economically and socially sound being supported by government and not subject to disproportionate influence by vocal minorities with particular agenda.
- I believe that the planned mine will be a godsend to Gloucester's economy
- Based on Council's current differential rating scheme, the presence of the mine would result in an increase in rates income to Council of more than \$250000 annually or more than 5% and, at least partially, alleviate the need for the currently proposed massive rates increase

### SOCIAL

- The Rocky Hill mine will provide education opportunities, trades and skills training and jobs which will encourage youth to stay in the local area and provide qualifications and experience which will be of benefit in a range of fields both during and after the mine ceases to operate
- Existing businesses are laying people off. Without new industries and the resultant jobs, these working age people and their families will have no alternative but to leave town or go on welfare with the associated impacts on social structure