

Date 23/10/13

The Director
Mining Projects Development Assessment
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir,

I oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project – Development Application No. SSD-5156.

I recently had the opportunity to visit Gloucester on the mid north coast of NSW. As part of the tour I visited **“The Hillview Herb Farm”** located at **Forbesdale**, 5km south of **Gloucester**. I was dismayed to learn that **Forbesdale** is the location for the proposed **ROCKY HILL** open cut coal mine, for which approval is currently being sought.

The proposed mine is located within an environmental and scenic protection zone. It is opposed by at least 80% of the residents and opposed unanimously by the Gloucester Shire Council. The mine will be located as close as 900m from the rural residential estate, affecting over 30 homes that surround the Herb Farm which itself is less than 2km away.

The valley view from the Herb Farm is stunning and the produce is grown in clean country air using clean rainwater. If the mine is approved this family-run agriculture and tourist business will be critically affected as will be the health and amenity of all the residents who surround the Herb Farm at Forbesdale.

Gloucester is a vibrant town which has successfully operated since its establishment more than 150 years ago. It is a significant tourist destination as the gateway to the heritage-listed **Barrington Tops National Park**, as well as having a strong agricultural base.

I fully understand that there exists a need for mining in Australia and that the royalties that are received by NSW are necessary. I do not, however, understand that we need to approve mining in any and every location regardless of the impact that it has on the land and the people that surround it.

I would ask, therefore, that you do all in your power to ensure that the **ROCKY HILL MINE** is not approved and the town's next evolution is not the destruction of a magnificent valley, destruction of the lifestyle of the people who live there and the eventual destruction of a wonderful country town. It is the scenery and sense of community which attracts a visitor like me.