

Date: 24-10-13
Name: P. N. KNOX
Address: 1583 Gloucester
Tops Rd Gloucester

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Director, Mining Projects
Development Assessment Systems & Approvals
Department of Planning & 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 mine near the Gloucester township. I am concerned about coal mining so close to the town, about the inevitable expansion of the mine in Stage 2 towards the town, and about the clear prospect that approval of this mine will be the precedent for intended coal mines along this narrow valley and the scenic Bucketts Way.

I wish to express my sadness and disappointment that such a beautiful agricultural area should be converted into a coal mining wasteland.

The Rocky Hill application demonstrates that this industry will not self-regulate and there is no NSW government policy to effectively protect Gloucester. GRL has retained licence areas even closer to Gloucester township and in closely settled areas along the valley. It is clear that GRL aspires to turn this beautiful peaceful valley into a coal mining valley. GRL will not deny that it will advance towards Gloucester and along the valley.

It is disgraceful that mining companies are allowed to change the environmental and economic balance of a thriving town like Gloucester, which has the potential to grow naturally and provide enduring jobs in clean industries well beyond the relatively short lifetime of multiple destructive resources industry projects.

Are Gloucester's children and its community's health and well-being simply to be viewed as collateral damage for a dirty, unnecessary and damaging development?

The 'significance' of this SSD project is the unnecessary damage it will inflict on a community and beauty - not its inflated value. Its significance lies in Ministerial and Assessment Committee readiness to restrain this company and its clear excesses of greed. This is a significant precedent setting project - where government finally steps in as a true regulator for the people.

With Minister MacDonald's support, GRL has already imposed a change of life for residents who have been bought out (e.g. the Fairbairns Lane community). On Forbesdale Estate and surrounding areas, within 2Km of the proposed mine, families enjoy a healthy and peaceful life. This will be lost. Instead, their nights will consist of strong lights reflecting off airborne coal dust, the noises of various vehicles,

coal being loaded on coal trains for 90 minutes per train and the noise of the coal conveyor as it fills the coal loader. All this will happen in a small valley every night of their lives. GRL has no answer for this.

There is no rational reason why Gloucester Vale should be permanently damaged for the comparatively small coal resource being sought - and the highly questionable economic benefit touted as flowing to the state and local economies.

Please:

- refuse GRL's Rocky Hill coal mine proposal.
- permanently protect Gloucester and closely settled areas.

I have made no reportable political donations.

Yours faithfully