

Name: Hugh Milner

Address: 21 Dalkeith Street, Northbridge. NSW 2063

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Director – Resource Assessments
Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Submission for the Rocky Hill Coal Project – Application No SSD-5156

Stratford Coal Extension Project – Application No SSD - 4966 MOD1

Dear Sir/Madam

I oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project together with the Stratford Mine Modification.

Various groups in Gloucester, including Groundswell Gloucester, Environment Group, Forbesdale Resident Action Group, will be lodging submissions against this mine. I totally support the content of these submissions.

No. 1. Australia should follow the lead of USA and China and not open any new coal mines. This action would assist in Australia remaining within its obligations under the Paris Climate Accord on Climate Change as well as providing a clear signal to the international community.

No. 2. Dust – GRL plans to generate 944 tonnes (over 1600 cubic metres) of dust every year. Children, the elderly, and people with respiratory disease will be at risk. Health impacts from open-cut coalmines are well documented. With most of Gloucester township, including the hospital and schools, falling within the 5km health impact zone of the Rocky Hill mine, this places a large percentage of the population at risk. Those most affected by the health impacts are the very young, the elderly and the sick.

No. 3. The proposed mine is on the Avon River floodplain and in the catchment area of the Manning River, which supplies drinking water to over 80,000 people. The Avon River has flooded 5 times in 4 years, with 2 floods occurring in 2013. There is definite potential for contamination of the water in the catchment.

No. 4. An open-cut coalmine within 5km of Gloucester and within sight of the Bucketts Way will have an impact on the visual amenity of the area. The mine will risk the jobs of hundreds employed in the tourism industry.

This mine and the mine extension should not be approved.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Milner, BE. Grad Dip Eng. Dev. (Water resources) UNSW

I have not made a reportable political donation