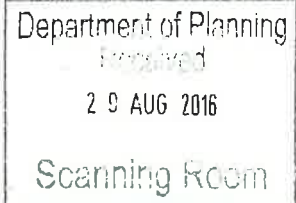


PCU066754



Delete my personal information before publication yes ~~no~~

To: Director – Resource Assessments Planning Services

Department of Planning & Environment GPO Box 39 Sydney NSW 2001

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

Dear Sir/Madam

I oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project on the following grounds.

No. 1. Dust – Gloucester Resources Limited (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 as it is well known in medical research the carcinogenic properties of coal dust.

No. 2. Scenic beauty – GRL claims that overburden from the mine will be used for ‘visibility barriers’. The largest is over 50m high and over 2km long. They will be visible to travellers along the Buckets Way and residents on the eastern side of the valley. They will be as ugly as the mine and no vegetation will grow on them. They will become a constant blight on a very picturesque valley.

No. 3. Rehabilitation – There is not enough overburden to fill the voids or produce the claimed landform. 20 million tonnes of coal removed. Topsoil 40cm deep over rubble 190 metres deep will not hold water in dry spells.

GRL claim that they will fill in any voids and completely rehabilitate the area to look even better than nature has created. If GRL go into liquidation and the mine ceases to operate what happens if the bond put aside for rehabilitation is never enough. The mining company moves on and leaves the clean up to the taxpayers.

No. 4. Night Lights – Gloucester sits in a quiet, rural valley with dark, starry night skies. This will disappear with the lights from a mine in the Avon valley. Even though the mine will not be operating at night for three years, the workers will have shifts until 10.30pm. They will be travelling along the haul road and to and from the mine. Their lights will be visible to residents in the Avon valley and will glow into the sky.

No. 5. Extensions to the mine. – GRL have already earmarked the area north of the proposed Rocky Hill mine for ‘Stage Two’. As with all coalmines, when the first mine is approved then they follow on with extension after extension, after extension. If the coal is there then GRL will mine it. The exploration licence extends north up the Avon Valley to the town. There is no minimum distance from residences, as with the 2km for CSG.

No. 6. Benefit to the NSW Government and the people of NSW – GRL will pay \$63M in revenue and \$60M in taxes. The life of the mine is 16 to 20 years. That means the company is paying just over \$3M a year for revenue and taxes. This is a joke figure and does not adequately compensate the people of Gloucester and NSW for the long term damage done to the Avon Valley.

The question is, why would the Government approve a mine that is paying so little to the coffers of NSW?

Gloucester does not need this mine. Please do not approve the Rocky Hill Coal Project.

Yours faithfully



I have not made a reportable political donation