

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

Dear Sir/Madam

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

I firmly oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project.

My main opposition to the mining proposal centres on the adverse impacts on the environment, tourism and scenic beauty of the Gloucester Valley.

Gloucester Resources Limited (GRL) proposes that overburden from the mine will be used to create visual amenity barriers over 50m high and over 2km long to “protect” travellers along the Bucketts Way and residents on the eastern side of the valley from seeing the destruction that is being wrought on the valley. The barriers will be an eyesore themselves and nearly as ugly as the open cut mine itself.

If the mine goes ahead I fear there will be a dramatic drop-off in the number of tourists visiting the Valley. You only have to look at what has happened in the coal mining areas of the Hunter Valley to see the adverse impacts of open-cut mining.

Claims by the mine supporters of any financial benefit to the town will inevitably be outweighed by a loss of visitors and a loss of jobs in tourism.

I understand that Gloucester's enviable environmental credentials as the “gateway to the Barrington Tops World Heritage area” contributes over \$5 million in tourism to the local economy each year. It is reprehensible that this could be lost for a polluting activity that in itself will lead to the production of more atmospheric carbon dioxide and a hastening of the loss of environment world-wide.

Gloucester needs to thrive and grow not be buried under coal and overburden dust.

I am also concerned about GRL's claim that they will fill in any voids and fully rehabilitate the area when they are finished.

The Planning Assessment Commission last year approved the extensions to Rio Tinto's Warkworth and Mount Thorley open cut coal mines near Singleton with final voids because the company claimed that it would be too expensive to backfill the holes. I submit that, if one of the world's biggest mining companies publicly acknowledges that it would not have the resources to undertake the backfilling, it is unbelievable

that the very much smaller GRL will undertake remediate its proposed mine at Rock Hill.

Like a lot of other mining companies in recent times GRL might be expected to go into liquidation and the mine cease to operate before remediation is due to take place. As with other mines in the Hunter and elsewhere in NSW the bonds put aside for rehabilitation are never enough to even partially remediate their works. The mining companies move on and leave the clean up to the taxpayers.

Gloucester does not need this mine.

Do not approve the Rocky Hill Coal Project.

Yours faithfully

**Elizabeth Donley**  
**14 Darryl Place**  
**Gymea Bay NSW 2227**

I have not made a reportable political donation