

Kristina Robinson
124 Jacks Road
Gloucester
NSW 2422

17/9/2016
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.

I live at 124 Jacks Rd, with my husband, we have beef cattle farm, (400 acres) which is our major source of income and has been for the past 20 years.

The farm boundaries are the north coast railway line on the west, Jacks Rd on the north, and GRL now own the two properties on our south and east. My house is within 2km from the mine and my back fence is only 1 km from the mine.

I already have been affected by this mine for the past 8 years. This mine has affected mine and my husband's mental health through stress of not knowing our future. We have it sitting over our heads waiting, not knowing what is to happen. Every room in my house looks over where this mine will be, so each day I am reminded of what could happen. I do not wish to live within 2km of a mine and the thought of, if this mine is approved, that they could just sit on it and do nothing for years is frightening. We are both in our 60's, if this mine is approved we need to be on the forced acquisition list from day one, our property value has dropped with the proposed mine. This farm is our superannuation, we need to sell to retire and live off.

I want this mine stopped for the following reasons:

"Jacks Rd is a local road managed by council and provides access from Bucketts Way to both Thunderbolt and Avon River Estates and 7 privately own rural residential properties."

124 Jacks Rd, is a 400 acres property, it is not 'rural residential', it is a working farm with direct access off Jacks Rd, yet this is not mentioned in either of the EIS. Council Rate notice defines the property as 'Farm Land' not Rural residential as it is a working farm with an income derived from beef farming. The probability of effects from this mine will affect the farming business.

Infrasound and low frequency noise can travel great distances in quiet settings and in a narrow enclosed valley. It is possible that people living 10kms away may be impacted by this noise. We will be living and working between 1 and 2km from the closest mine disturbance every day listening on a constant drone. If this mine is not stopped we will be hearing the truck movements and the reversing warnings, this is unacceptable.

With possibly 4 Blast every week we will be affected. How can a mine guarantee the house from cracks and damages and excessive blasting noise when we live so close? If I am so stressed from it now how will I cope each time I hear the blasting.

There will be dust from this mine, there is no avoiding dust while the amenity barriers are being built, the dumping of dirt will cause dust as they cannot wet the dirt down, as it will turn to mud. All roads cannot we kept watered 24 hrs a day and the wind will carry that dust straight to my place.

There will be dust and pollution from this mine 24 hours a day, every window in my house is opened during summer; I am in a direct line to this mine. If this mine is not stopped I will be affected from the mine dust and pollutants.

Visibility is a major concern, yet the Rocky Hill EIS does not even mention us, neighbours on either side are mentioned, but us, with a more direct line of sight, are not mentioned (a major omission of the EIS). From the time I wake in the morning till I go to bed I will be seeing the mine, no matter where you are on the property you will see the mine. This will affect my mental health, I will live and work right next to an open cut coal mine, 24 hours a day, I will be disturbed by this coal mine.

As I greet people from my front door I will be looking at the northern barrier, from my bedroom window I will be looking at the northern barrier, from my ensuite window I will be looking at the western barrier, from my kitchen window I will be looking directly at the western barrier, as I step out my back door I will be facing the western barrier and every windows in the family living area will look directly at the mining area.

For two to three years we will be watching the northern and western amenity barriers being built. The visual and noise pollution while these barriers are being built will be unacceptable. It is the effect this will have on my mental health that concerns me greatly. The visibility barriers will always be a visual reminder of an open cut coalmine operating inside these barriers and no amount of vegetation will decrease the visual impact of these barriers.

Our farm relies on the Avon River to water stock year round. At times the river stops flowing but there are always water holes for the cattle. This mine intends to defer water which runs off the Mograni Range into the Avon River. "The proposal would decrease flows in the Avon River downstream of the mine area (to Oaky Creek a distance of 1.6km) by up to 1.7%" this directly affects the farm area. How are we being compensated for this? There is no mention it will affect us.

Rocky Hill states it will be taking water from the Avon using their water licenses, it is also deferring water from flowing into the Avon River this will dramatically reduce the river flow down stream, which will have a huge effect on the farm and the environment. We rely on the Avon River to water our cattle so any change in the river system would not be acceptable.

Rocky Hill also states they will be releasing water from the RO plant, when the water is of an acceptable quality. What is acceptable quality? This river water feeds into the drinking water catchment for 80,000 people downstream in the Manning River system.

There will be an extra 100 light vehicles per day traveling directly past our house. Rocky Hill proposed to widen Jacks Rd to cope with this increase, again a major disruption to our lives. With the increase of traffic on Jacks Rd we will be impacted both from the north, with traffic, and from the south and east by the mine itself.

I have been led to believe from my reading that anyone living within 5 km will suffer diminished health. It is stated that coal pollutants affect all major body organ systems and contribute to four of the five leading causes of death (heart disease, cancer, stroke and chronic lower respiratory disease) Therefore on health grounds alone this mine is far to close to my house and the farm.

Our houses rely on water tanks for domestic use and with the greater levels of dust and pollutants in the air our health will again be at risk from drinking water.

If this mine wishes to go ahead it should have been forced to agree to buy all land within 3 to 5km of the mine prior to mine commencement and not put so many families through the stress and worry, wondering what will happen to their future due to the mine.

The stress of living next to an open cut coal mine will be too great for me to bear.

The government needs to put a stop to this mine. This mine is too close to the residential houses, farms, tourist businesses and the Gloucester Township.

I have made no reportable political donations.

Yours truly

Kristina Robinson