

- **Global demand for coal is falling and the fall will accelerate:**

Both China and India, the world's two largest consumers, have pledged to transition from coal generated energy. The recent global price increase is due to China replacing some of their domestic production with seaborne coal, this is to minimise the potential economic impact of job losses that would result from a too dramatic a decrease in local coal production.

As China and India reduce demand the oversupply of coal will be exacerbated with price reductions for all markets including Japan and Korea. Coal from this mine will increase the oversupply of coal in the export market, which has been a key driver of prices falling and jobs lost.

Further oversupply will drive further drops in the price of coal and this will lead to lay-offs and even mine closures, as it has in the last two years.

It is environmental and economic folly to approve more coal production, a non-sustainable and failing industry neglecting the negative effects on Tourism; a highly-sustainable and growing industry sector providing jobs with as many flow-on benefits as those forecast from mining

- **The proposed mine is much too close to residential areas.**

The proposed pits are only 900m from the Forbesdale residential estate, and barely 3km from Gloucester township. The impacts from noise and air pollution, blasting, loss of amenity and lifestyle on surrounding residents are simply unacceptable. Such impacts have been shown to be unacceptable in other areas where open-cut mining is well-established

It is amazingly contradictory that the same Planning Department that professes concern for the noise impacts and visual pollution of wind vanes should have NO concern about the appalling visual pollution and huge noise impacts of another open-cut coal-mine. Particularly in an area where Tourism is well-established.

- **The mine threatens Gloucester's \$50 million tourism industry.**

Gloucester is a unique and beautiful town on the edge of the Barrington wilderness, and it has a thriving nature-based tourism industry. Open cut coal mining is completely incompatible with this important sustainable local industry, which provides employment and growth The Tourism industry is too important to the area to be jeopardised.

- **The likely health impacts are too great**

Gloucester's hospital, its schools, and almost all of its residents are within 5km from the proposed coal pits. Particulate pollution from open-cut mining is well-known to lead to detrimental respiratory health effects and increased death rates in communities close to coal-mines. There is no justification for exposing the population of Gloucester to such health impacts.

Health impacts cost money which comes from the same Public purse that receives any of the purported benefits of the mine. The fact that such costs are "externalised" makes them no less real. This externalisation is used to boost the apparent economic benefits of the project. Thus, it is essential that those negative costs are not overlooked in assessment of benefits.

- **'Commitments' to reduce mining impacts are not to be trusted.**

Mining companies have a well-documented history of reneging on commitments made at the time of application. Such neglect of commitments and "Conditions of Approval" has led to the demise of many rural townships and the heartache and health effects of people forced from their way of life.

The community has no reason to trust either commitments from the mining company made during its application, nor conditions imposed by the Planning Department if approval is given. We have seen elsewhere in Gloucester and the Hunter Valley that these conditions can be changed later, and usually are. Conditions regarding mine rehabilitation, night-time work hours, noise, blasting, and dust, and even the footprint of the mine are untrusted.

Mining Companies typically seek amendments and Modification projects once the initial project is approved

It is known, for example, that there are plans for a "Stage 2" of this coal mine.

Coal-mining is a dirty, polluting dangerous and non-sustainable industry.

NSW and the world market do not need more coal or more mines.

The only acceptable outcome for the Rocky Hill application is to reject it outright.



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