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The Director, Mining Projects
Development Assessment Systems & Approvals
NSW Dept of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY, NSW, AUSTRALIA, 2001
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Personal submission: ROCKY HILL COAL MINE (DA SSD-5156)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to voice my strenuous opposition to the proposed Rocky Hill open cut coal mine at Gloucester. The principal reasons for my opposition to the mine are summarised as follows:

1. A vast number of international experts, scientists and others, have issued bluntly dire warnings about the dangers of coal mining; indeed, some of the world's most eminent scientists have called for an immediate and complete halt to the practice because of concerns about climate change, widespread environmental damage and harm to humans and all biodiversity.¹ To ignore such warnings is foolish and dangerous, and Australian governments, including the Baird NSW Government, are failing in their duty of care to their constituents by refusing to act to bring about an end to coal mining. No new coal mines, such as that proposed by Gloucester Resources Limited at Rocky Hill, should be allowed.
2. As a location long recognised for its immense natural beauty, the Gloucester region, especially with its proximity to Sydney, holds the potential of a high level of sustainable economic benefit from tourism, agricultural and population decentralisation, if there were the political will and the application of some vision and innovation in planning and development. All this potential risks being lost with the expansion of open cut coal mining, which is visually unappealing, dirty, noisy and harmful to human health.²
3. Unlike existing coal mines in the area, the proposed Rocky Hill mine poses new and absolutely unacceptable threats to the Manning Valley water supply, which is drawn from the Manning River catchment downstream of the planned Rocky Hill mine. In its submission to DA SSD-5156³, Mid Coast Water describes the threats to the water supply and is critical of GLR's planned water management system for the mine.
4. GRL should be encouraged to invest the \$160 plus million it intends spending on the mine to instead develop renewable energies, such as solar and wind. These power industries would be well suited to the Gloucester region and would result in a greater number of jobs over time than the 110 operational jobs promised by the mine.

1. <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2015/s4360858.htm> accessed 07/10/2016
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8tPvlt2uwE&feature=youtu.be> accessed 07/10/2016
2. https://sydney.edu.au/medicine/.../PDF_Mining_Report_FINAL_October_2012.p accessed 07/10/2016
www.keepthescenicrimscenic.com/.../Air_near_coal_mines-%20Sue%20Bradbury.pdf accessed 07/10/2016
3. http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=5156 (Special Interest Group submissions) accessed 07/10/2016