

Kerrie Green  
54 Irrawang Rd  
Gloucester NSW 2422

Please delete my personal information before publication

30 September 2016

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

**Rocky Hill Coal Project – Application Number SSD-5156**  
**Stratford Coal Extension Project – Application Number SSD-4966 MOD1**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am opposed to the Rocky Hill Coal Project and the Stratford Mine Modification.

It seems to me with the proposed location of the Rocky Hill Coal Project relative to Q100 flood levels, the uncovered coal stockpiles, wind erosion and seepage of contaminants from the overburden there is an unacceptable risk of polluting the Avon River system which feeds into the Manning River and provides drinking water to a large human and animal population. Also, I understand rural residences next to the proposed mine site do not have urban water connections and would be reliant on drinking water from tanks drained from their roof catchment.

I am concerned that all of the responses by the previous Gloucester Shire Council requesting assistance with road damage and other impacts that the mine would cause were either ignored or dismissed.

I live within 5km of the proposed mine. I understand from a resident who lives 5km from the Stratford mine that the constancy and nature of the low frequency noise is a nuisance even at that distance. Should the Rocky Hill Coal Project proceed I understand high frequency noise would have the potential to be monitored and controlled. However, it is unclear whether the low frequency nuisance noise associated with machinery at the mine sites could be attenuated.

In any case, I understand that the background noise levels assumed for Gloucester in the Applicant's Environmental Impact Statement was 30dBA but that Gloucester usually has only 24-26dBA background noise levels.

I am concerned for the health of my community if the mine were to proceed. I understand the Emergency Department and Mortality rates per population at Singleton and Muswellbrook are significantly higher than those experienced in Sydney. There is no independent pollution monitoring system in the Gloucester community so any measurements taken by industry have the potential to be biased or withheld from public knowledge.

I am concerned that if the mine were approved that there would not be sufficient resources from Government departments to monitor the approved standards of emissions or water table damage despite it being part of the approval for the mine to go ahead.

I am concerned that if the mine goes ahead the peaceful beautiful rural agricultural and tourism industries of this valley will be spoilt forever. I especially do not want to see the devastation that can be found around Singleton, Muswellbrook, Ulan Valley, Bulga and all along the Golden Valley Highway, which I travel frequently, in our beautiful valley. We moved here for the area's beauty and unspoilt amenity 4 years ago and have since bought a house and built a granny flat for my mother and we would be devastated to have to move again. House values would reduce also as they already have done anywhere the mine is being planned. Housing is taking months and years to sell, if sold at all, where the mine is being planned.

I am concerned about the possibility of light pollution arising from the hours of operation of the proposed mine up to 10pm at night. Also, the times would have the potential to be changed after three years if the Applicant's Environmental Impact Statement were to be approved.

Some of my friends are mine workers. I am concerned that if the Rocky Hill mine were approved and some of my friends starting working there, and then I experienced adverse health impacts associated with water, noise, air and or light pollution, then it may cause me to have social problems in my community.

I am concerned that Morwell had a fire in the open-cut coal mine that took 45 days to put out causing smoke, ash and health problems in the community. The potential fire hazard in Gloucester should a Rocky Hill mine be approved would be exacerbated by the small rural nature of the local fire service and the distance to back up fire services. This small valley surrounded by hills would hold the smoke into the area and exacerbate any health issues and potential relief from dissipation as it does with heat in summer.

I am concerned that my friend's lovely rural block overlooks the site of the proposed private haul road and that their view and quiet ambience would be ruined by trucks not just at ground level but also at the height of the proposed bridge overpass.

I am also concerned that 1 million tonnes of diesel would be needed every month to run the 194 trucks per day on the private haul road. This does not appear to be an environmentally responsible transport method.

These two applications should be refused.

Yours sincerely

I have not made a reportable political donation.