

Anurago Reichelt
25 Hannaford Place

Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

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

Rocky Hill Coal Project – Application No SSD-5156
Stratford Coal Extension Project – Application No SSD - 4966 MOD 1

Dear Sir/Madam

I oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project and Stratford Mine modification on the following grounds

1. Proximity to residential areas

The mine is proposed only 900metres from the residential area of Forbesdale. These residents will carry an unacceptable burden and will be impacted by dust, noise and loss of amenity, resulting in risks to their health and loss of property value.

2. Impacts on Health

Health impacts from open-cut coalmines are well documented. With most of Gloucester township, including the hospital and schools, falling within the 5km health impact zone of the Rocky Hill mine, this places a large percentage of the population at risk. Those most affected by the health impacts are the very young, the elderly and the sick.

3. Impact on Tourism, worth \$51M per annum to the Gloucester economy

An open-cut coalmine within 5km of Gloucester and within sight of the Bucketts Way will have an impact on the visual amenity of the area. The mine will risk the jobs of hundreds employed in the tourism industry.

4. Environment

The proposed mine is in the Avon Valley and in the catchment area of the Manning River. This supplies drinking water to over 80,000 people. There is definite potential for contamination of the water in the catchment.

Furthermore I ask, why would the NSW Government justify a green field coal mine just 900metres from a residential area. Gloucester is an area of rural beauty, with sustainable industries of tourism, dairies and cattle farming. Not the place for a coal mine.

Even coking coal is not in demand around the world. There is enough stockpiled to adequately supply the steel making industry. Coal mining is not a sustainable industry, with fluctuating prices and worker lay-offs.

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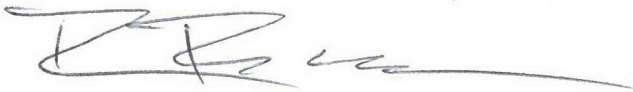
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The benefit to the NSW Government and the people of NSW is debatable. GRL will pay \$63M in revenue and \$60M in taxes. The life of the mine is 16 to 20 years. That means the company is paying just over \$3M a year for revenue and taxes. Most of the profit from this company will go overseas.

The NSW Government needs to invest in renewables, particularly in rural areas where employment is low. Towns, like Gloucester could be embracing the new world of solar, thermal solar, biomass, wind and hydro. So many options with huge benefits, like, reduced carbon emissions, lower power bills, regional economic development and stable job creation.

Gloucester could be the new renewables hub instead of following an out dated industry like coal. Isn't it about time we followed the rest of the world into the 21st century?

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'AR', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.