

Ms Melina Ey
273 Somerset Drive
Thornton, NSW
2322

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Date: 11/10/2016

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 the Stratford Modification on a number of grounds.

Firstly, the proposal of an open cut mine just 900 metres from the residential area of Forbesdale will inundate this community with noise and dust impacts that are unacceptable for human health. Furthermore, with most of the township of Gloucester being less than 5kms from the open cut project, it is difficult to see how the impacts of this project will be fully mitigated for the wider community. The adverse impacts of open cut coal mines are well established, and have been experienced across the Hunter Valley for many years. There is no need to subject yet another Hunter Valley community to the noise, dust, water contamination and loss of amenity that are produced by open cut mines.

Furthermore, at a time when governments throughout the world are committing to significant reductions in their carbon emissions, the approval of yet another open cut project in NSW clearly goes against this broader shift. As economies begin their efforts to transition away from non-renewable energy, and the global price of coal continues to suffer, it is difficult to see how the approval of this project can be justified on economic and political grounds.

Finally, a significant proportion of the community of Gloucester have clearly expressed concerns regarding extractive projects in their local area in recent years (most recently in the case of AGL's former CSG project). To force the majority of the community to make their case, once again, against another resource development proposal, seems a blatant disrespect of the community's expressed wishes. Quite simply, this mine should not be approved.

Sincerely,

Melina Ey