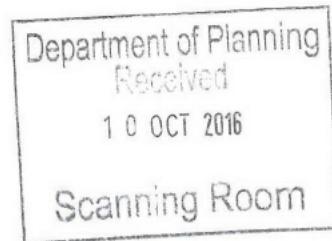


Kaye and Grahame Stelzer
331 Bowman Farm Road
Gloucester NSW 2422

Please delete our personal information, including names, prior to any possible publication.

5 October 2016

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



**Re: Rocky Hill Coal Project – Application No. SSD-5156
Stratford Coal Extension Project – Application No. SSD-4966 MOD 1**

Dear Sir/Madam

We, Kaye and Grahame Stelzer, strongly oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project and Stratford Coal Extension Modification Project on the grounds as listed below.

Environment

The proposed Rocky Hill Coal Project's mine is situated on the floodplain of the Avon River which is in the catchment area of the Manning River. **This catchment area provides household and drinking water to over 80,000 people.** There is credible potential that the water in this catchment area could be contaminated by mining activity due to the event of flooding. The Avon River has been subject to **flooding five times in the past four years**. Any contamination of the water in this catchment area would affect people in the Manning Valley, who are reliant on the water, over a distance of 75 kilometres.

Other Impacts on Health

Health impacts from open-cut coal mines are well documented. Most of Gloucester township with its homes, businesses, hospitals, schools, aged-care facilities and child care centres, fall within the 5 kilometre impact zone of the proposed Rocky Hill Coal Project's open-cut mine. Therefore a large percentage of the town's population will be put at risk, particularly the young, the ill and the elderly.

Proximity to Residential Areas

The proposed open-cut mine will be situated only 900 metres from the 35 family homes in the Forbesdale residential area. Those families, plus other residents on rural properties in the locality, will experience unacceptable levels of noise, dust, and traffic. They have already lost their peaceful, rural lifestyle with this threat. Many have chosen not to improve their homes because they no longer have any value. (No one wants to live next door to an open-cut coal mine. The only way they can sell their homes is to the mining company, GRL and GRL is no longer purchasing.)

Impact on Tourism

Over the past two decades Gloucester has faced many trials with potentially adverse effects on its economic viability. To counteract this downturn a Tourism industry has grown which now brings \$51 million worth of economic activity to our community. Visitors come to Gloucester to experience the peaceful, country lifestyle and enjoy the visual amenity of the area with its green valleys surrounded by The Bucketts and the Mograni ranges. An open-cut coal mine within 5km of Gloucester and within sight of the Bucketts Way will have a major adverse impact on Tourism. It will be impacted with a resultant loss of jobs and income generated in the township.

This proposed mine has been rejected once by your Department and although its EIS has been modified the basic issues remain, therefore this proposal should, once again, not be approved.

Yours faithfully,

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