

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



6th October 2016

Submission for

ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT – Application no SSD-5156

STRATFORD COAL EXTENSION PROJECT – Application No SSD-4966 MOD1

Dear Sir

We oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project and Stratford Mine Modifications on the following grounds:

It is hard to understand these applications. The coal price has dropped enormously over the past year as our large overseas customers hasten to reduce their reliance on coal for electricity generation. In place of coal-fired power stations, our major customers are greatly increasing their development of renewable sources of power. China has its own coal mines. As China reduces its need for coal to produce power, this huge economy will aim to greatly reduce its reliance on coal imports, possibly until it is self-sufficient. In these circumstances, how can any new mine expect to make a profit? I note that Yancoal Australia made a loss in 2015-2016. This is likely to be repeated.

What our overseas customers seem to understand is that coal-fired power generation is extremely bad for global warming and climate change. Climate change is now a fact and virtually all the world's real climate scientists agree that mankind has been the major cause of global warming. Climate change will have huge economic effects on Australia, as the temperature rises and large areas of our farming land become less productive. Economic benefits from further coal mining will be small, and totally wiped out by the economic costs of further climate change. New coal mines make no economic sense.

The experience of the original Stratford Mine showed that the Gloucester residents gained almost no benefits from this local mining activity. Once the mine was established, few locals were employed and there was no lasting benefit to the local economy.



There is no evidence that a new mine will have a different result. The Rocky Hill mine is very close to current habitation. Pollution with dust, especially coal dust, is harmful to the population, causing lung disease and increasing the risk of some cancers. As well as no benefits from a new mine, the local population will be exposed to health problems as a result of this mining activity.

The Gloucester area has huge tourism potential, as people from increasingly crowded, traffic-locked Sydney seek holidays in the clean, quiet, picturesque countryside. Gloucester stands to gain huge economic benefits from tourism, but only if it can retain its clean image, unspoilt by polluting, ugly coal mines. Considering the tiny chance of benefits and the huge risk of problems, the Gloucester area will be much worse off if these mining ventures are allowed.

Yours sincerely,



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