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

Submission for the Rocky Hill Coal Project – Application No SSD-5156

Dear Sir/Madam

I oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project on the following grounds.

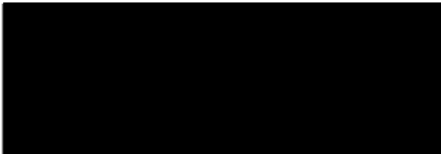
If the proposed mine goes ahead then the scenic beauty of the Gloucester valley will be irreparably damaged. This will lead to a dramatic drop in tourist numbers. Claims of financial benefit to the town will be lost by the decrease in visitors and the loss of jobs in tourism.

The Stratford mine boasted of increased employment for Gloucester locals when in fact 60% of the employees were drive in/drive out workers. These employees did not spend money in the town. The economic situation for Gloucester did not improve when Stratford was in operation and families of mine workers did not choose to live in the local area. Several businesses in Gloucester complained that they were training apprentices who then left and got employment at the Stratford mine, due to higher wages. Those businesses found the situation unsustainable.

When the Stratford mine slowed operations and eventually stopped production, many workers were laid off. This illustrates that mining is not a sustainable industry. When the price of coal goes down then mining companies have no responsibility to workers or the local areas. They just cease operations. This is not what we want for Gloucester.

Gloucester's clean, green image needs to thrive and grow. We want industries that enhance the rural area and promote our claim to fame of being the gateway to the Barrington Tops World Heritage area.

Yours sincerely



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