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Date:

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
Stratford Coal Extension Project – Application No SSD - 4966 MOD 1**

Dear Sir/Madam

I oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project together with the Stratford Mine Modification.

No.1 Dust – GRL plans to generate 944 tonnes (over 1600 cubic metres) of dust every year. Children, the elderly, and people with respiratory disease will be at risk.

No.2 Scenic beauty – GRL claims that overburden from the mine will be used for ‘visibility barriers’. The largest is over 50m high and over 2km long. They will be visible to travellers along the Bucketts Way and residents on the eastern side of the valley. They will be as ugly as the mine.

No.3 Rehabilitation – There is not enough overburden to fill the voids or produce the claimed landform. 20 million tonnes of coal removed. Topsoil 40cm deep over rubble 190 metres deep will not hold water in dry spells.

GRL claim that they will fill in any voids and completely rehabilitate the area to look even better than nature has created. What if GRL go into liquidation and the mine ceases to operate? If we use the examples of mines in the Hunter then we cannot believe them. The bond put aside for rehabilitation is never enough. The mining company moves on and leaves the clean up to the taxpayers.

No.4 Night Lights – Gloucester sits in a quiet, rural valley with dark, starry night skies. This will disappear with the lights from a mine in the Avon valley. Even though the mine will not be operating at night for three years, the workers will have shifts until 10.30pm. They will be travelling along the haul road and to and from the mine. Their lights will be visible to residents in the Avon valley and will glow into the sky.

No.5 Extensions to the mine. – GRL have already earmarked the area north of the proposed Rocky Hill mine for ‘Stage Two’. As with all coalmines, when the first mine is approved then they follow on with extension after extension, after extension. If the coal is there then GRL will mine it. The exploration licence extends north up the Avon Valley to the town. There is no minimum distance from residences, as with the 2km for CSG.

No.6 Benefit to the NSW Government and the people of NSW – 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.

The question is, why would the Government approve a mine that is paying so little to the coffers of NSW?
Gloucester does not need this mine. Do not approve the Rocky Hill Coal Project.

Yours faithfully