

NSW Department of Planning

ROCKY HILL PROJECT and STRATFORD MINE CHANGES

As a permanent resident of Forbesdale, living just 1500m from the proposed Rocky Hill Coal Mine I would like to make a submission stating my OPPOSITION to the mine.

Transparency in all parts of their application and transparency in communication with both Government and the Local Community should be an essential requirement from Gloucester Resources Limited. This has not, and continues to be, not the case. Their application has many murky areas where one is left concerned and sceptical about their motives and the end result they wish to achieve.

The following are issues that I feel need to be addressed and answered by Gloucester Resources Limited before any approval can be considered. If they cannot address these ethically and truthfully then approval cannot be given.

1. Our lives have been put on hold for the last three years. We live within 1500m of the mine boundary and as such our home is unsaleable, certainly for anything nearing its true worth. Will we be compensated for the lost value or the loss of the pristine rural environment that we now enjoy?
2. Working through the figures in Gloucester Resources Limited's application has shown (in the Gloucester Groundswell submission) that the mine is not VIABLE in this current climate, nor likely to be so in the foreseeable future. Why is GRL then spending countless thousands of dollars on this new submission and on a mine that is not viable? If the mine goes ahead and is not viable then the State Government will not receive the royalty funds as expected. So why approve this mine and destroy the valuable farming land and the vistas key to existing rural and tourist industries.
3. Gloucester Resources Limited have continually stated that **they** have no intention to expand the mine. If they sell the mine to another party then what guarantees will be in place preventing an application being lodged seeking expansion further up the valley toward the Gloucester Township?

What are Gloucester Resources real motives behind their application? Is it to open a completely unviable mine or to gain approval and then sell the approved resource to other interests?

History shows that once initial approval is granted a far simpler process of amendment application can be embarked upon requesting change from everything from mineable area to hours of operation. There are no consequences for "changing their minds".

When considering your decision to approve or disapprove the Rocky Hill Coal Mine consider this. What will be the emotional cost to the people of Gloucester to see this wonderful, beautiful valley destroyed? This warrants no mention in the Gloucester Resources Limited application. What price can anyone put on converting one of the State of NSW's classic rural valleys into a classic Hunter Valley Coal Mine moonscape?

Please consider your decision carefully. Our health, our welfare and our valley's future is in your hands.

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