



R. J. and M.E. West  
3 Neotsfield Avenue  
Gloucester N.S.W. 2422

5 October, 2016

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,

The proposed mine is too close to the town of Gloucester. This application should not be approved.

Demand for coal declined in 2014/15 and our reliance on a market to China was dealt a blow when China's consumption declined close to 4% in the year.

The world supply of coal in the last five years has exceeded demand, with reduced prices threatening future investment similar to the application under consideration.

Existing and already approved coal mines could produce tens of millions of tonnes of coal in Australia into the 2040s. If there is any demand for it. The application considered at peak would add about 0.5% to Australian production.

The development of renewable energy source, at decreasing cost and increasing efficiency, must be regarded as further hazard to the coal industry

Economic volatility could put at risk recovery of the sunk cost of investment. Where would be the provision for costs of water treatment, of visual screening, of rehabilitation?

The employment increase projected will come at the cost of discomfort to current residents of Gloucester. An increasing number were attracted by the natural beauty of the area that gives rise to the tourism industry. But what will be the effect on the tourism industry?

The applicant company regards it as an insignificant part of the town economy.

The applicant shows modelling – based on assumptions; not actuality – increasing dust, noise and health effects to be within acceptable limits. Experience of residents at the now suspended local mine was not acceptable.

Employment of 75 local existing residents is planned. They are not additional economic activity source for the local economy.

  
R.J. West

  
M.E. West

We have not made a reportable political donation

