



Ryde - Hunter's Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society

Member of Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.

**P.O. Box 2127
Boronia Park 2111**

Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001
14 October 2016

**RE: Rocky Hill Coal Project – Application No SSD-5156
Stratford Coal Extension Project – Application No SSD - 4966 MOD1**

Dear Sir

We are a local conservation group which was established in 1966 as a result of community objection to Ryde Council's proposal to extend a garbage tip in the Field of Mars Reserve. Since its establishment our volunteer members have worked to restore the natural bushland in the reserve and improve visitor amenity. An environmental education centre was established in the reserve, now a gazetted Wildlife refuge, which is visited by over 15,000 students per year.

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

Our members feel strongly that the main threat now for the much-loved Field of Mars Reserve will be the ecological impacts on the bushland as a consequence of a changing climate as carbon pollution increasingly controls our atmosphere.

If the proposed mine goes ahead then the scenic beauty of the Gloucester valley will be irreparably damaged, affecting a healthy tourism industry. This will be a lost opportunity for the local community. Industries that enhance the rural area and promote Gloucester as a gateway to the Barrington Tops World Heritage area are more sustainable.

The proposed mine is on the Avon River floodplain and in the catchment area of the Manning River, which supplies drinking water to over 80,000 people. The Avon River has flooded 5 times in 4 years, with 2 floods occurring in 2013. There is definite potential for contamination of the water in the catchment.

Mining is not a sustainable industry. It pollution leaves a legacy for future generations. When the price of coal goes down then mining companies have no responsibility to workers or the local areas. They just cease operations.

Yours sincerely
Cathy Merchant
Committee Member