

I support the Amended Rocky Hill Coal Mine Project for reasons that include the following

- The Amended Rocky Hill Mine will create both direct and indirect job opportunities for people in Gloucester, an area where minimal employment prospects typically exist. Without further progression and continued development, families and youth will continue to leave the area in search of job opportunities further perpetuating the existing issue of an ageing community. Data also shows new families of working age with children are not relocating the area and the lack of opportunities is a key reason for this.
- The Amended Rocky Hill Project has considered the issues raised throughout the previous project submission and has modified plans so as to prevent undertaking mining operations at night, and to further minimise impacts through the use of facilities at the Stratford Mining Complex including the CHPP, conveyor or train loader, rather than constructing and operating their own. This is a significant improvement that demonstrates GRL's commitment to both the community and project.
- The local mining activity contributes greatly to the survival of the town, particularly following the demise of other local industries such as timber. Without industry the local businesses will have nothing or no one to support and the community will become unsustainable. Existing services such as schools will inevitably be affected as a result of reduced demand and subsequently the town will have even less retention or attraction for young families. Rocky Hill development will help Gloucester have a long-term future.
- In addition to providing direct employment, the expansion of industry will provide a greater need for service industries and suppliers that will also provide for the existing population's needs.
- Council should support the development as it will assist in improving their poor economic position. The mine will also lead to improved roads in the local area at no cost to the rate payers.
- Tourism, although an important aspect of the community is only part of the solution for Gloucester. Businesses are closing, local motels only source a small amount of their revenue from the tourist trade, and the number of B&Bs has decreased despite claims that tourism is booming. Tourism will continue to be an important part of the Gloucester region, but will likely benefit indirectly from the planned development. Investment in the town will mean more and improved services and facilities that tourists will also use. It is proven that mining and tourism can co-exist in places like the Hunter Valley, with positive outcomes and growth for the community.
- The geology of the Gloucester Basin dictates that the region will never become dominated by mining. Accessible and economic open cut coal mining can only occur along the basin periphery, and this provides a limited opportunity for small scale operations only. This separates Gloucester from the likes of Singleton or Muswellbrook in the Hunter Valley.
- There is a low risk of adverse environmental outcomes but clearly defined positive economic and social benefits for the local and regional communities as well as the State in general.
- The NSW economy relies on continued growth of industry and government needs to ensure that NSW remains an attractive place for investment. Projects such as Rocky Hill that are

scientifically, economically and socially robust and need to be supported by government and not adversely influenced by a vocal minority with a certain agenda.