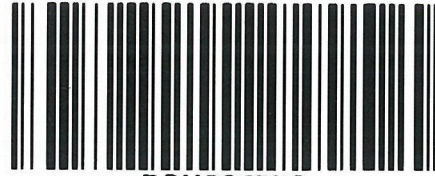


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10 October 2016



Director – Resource Assessments

Planning Services

Department of Planning & Environment

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001



Dear Sir/Madam

Rocky Hill Coal Project – Application No SSD-5156

We oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project on the following grounds:

1. Proximity to residential areas

The proposed Rocky Hill Mine is only 900 metres from the residential area of Forbesdale. Those residents will carry an unacceptable burden and will be impacted by dust, noise and loss of amenity, resulting in risks to their health and loss of property value.

Gloucester is a closely settled and growing community. It does not need a mine. Gloucester is beautiful and should be kept that way. Gloucester has a reputation for its peace and beauty – don't spoil it!

2. Impact on Tourism – estimated at \$51M per annum to the Gloucester economy

An open-cut coal mine within 5km of Gloucester and within sight of the Bucketts Way will have a severe impact on the visual amenity of the area. A mine would risk the jobs of hundreds employed in the tourism industry.

3. Impacts on Health

Health impacts from open-cut coalmines are well documented. With most of Gloucester township, including the hospital and schools, falling within the 5km health impact zone of the Rocky Hill mine, this places a large percentage of the population at risk. Those most affected by the health impacts are the very young, the elderly and the sick. Fine coal dust and diesel emissions carry known carcinogens. This is a closely settled valley and coal dust will hang in the air day and night for the community of 2500 to breathe for the sake of possibly just 50 ongoing jobs (net).

4. Environment

The proposed mine is in the Avon Valley in the catchment area of the Manning River. This supplies drinking water to over 80,000 people. Surface coal dust would inevitably enter the Gloucester and Manning Valley water system. There is a definite risk of contamination of the water in the catchment.

5. Duty of Care

1. The government has a duty of care for the community it is supposed to represent and keep safe.
2. That requires action before the problem is created. After a coal mine is operational, it is too late.
3. The Precautionary Principle needs to be dusted off. Government can decide in favour of social good over social harm. The scientific evidence of harm and risk is clear.
4. The government needs to act decisively on this and reject GRL's application today.

6. Not Gloucester!

1. If more coking coal is 'needed' from NSW, it can come from existing mines.
2. We don't need to open a new mine with a very limited life and limited production. We don't need to permanently damage Gloucester for the sake of a very small increment in overall coking coal production.
3. Why would one even think about opening a dirty mine right in beautiful Gloucester when there are already many other NSW mines for coking coal that can produce any extra coal requirement.

7. Gloucester Industry

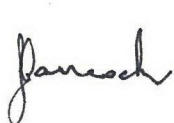
1. This mine site and its surrounds offer some of the most desirable agricultural, tourism, and lifestyle industry development sites around Gloucester. They are our future.
2. The tree-changer industry is a very significant and self-sustaining employer and it will increase in value if Gloucester is allowed to remain pristine.
3. Sydney and Newcastle populations are growing rapidly. Tree-changers and tourists will generate more jobs in future years. If Gloucester is damaged and becomes a mining area that growth will be stifled.
4. Rocky Hill is only the start – Gloucester must be protected now.
5. If GRL is given approval for Rocky Hill, it won't be satisfied. It has two other adjacent areas along the main tourist route, which it will mine if it gets its foot in the door.

This mine should not be approved.

We have not made any reportable political donations.

The Minister should intervene and reject the Application.

Yours faithfully



Alan & Lyn Hancock