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2142 Gloucester Tops Rd
Invergordon NSW 2422
mistyridge1@ipstarmail.com.au
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Rocky Hill Coal Project – Application No. SSD 5156

Opposition to the Rocky Hill Coal Mine

I wish to draw to your attention to an anomaly and other matters of concern regarding the proposed Rocky Hill Coal Mine at Gloucester NSW. It is possible that you are not aware of some details that were made available to myself and others as representatives of a local community organisation, The Gloucester Project Inc.

When AJ Lucas initially started exploring and test drilling for CSG in the Gloucester Basin they invited representatives from the Gloucester Community to discuss the viability of CSG in the region. At the time, before the dangers of CSG were exposed, CSG was seen as a possible transitional fuel to bridge between coal dependance and future renewable energy sources. The organisation that I represented was genuinely exploring possible solutions for our region and had some very open and frank discussions with Lucas representatives. This positive, and I believe genuine and well-intentioned relationship continued when AGL took over from Lucas.

During the following years of discussion and information gathering we were confidentially given access to water testing results, drilled core samples and other similar exploration material and information. Although the focus at the time was on CSG, coal deposits and related impacts were also discussed. It was also explained to us that Lucas and subsequently AGL, had to provide all their results to the coal companies, including Rocky Hill proponents.

From our observations of core samples, accessible coal deposit calculations, estimated profit projections and subsequent discussions with representatives from AGL it became very clear that even with the then attractive prices being obtained for prime coking coal that the amount of *accessible* coal was, according to AGL reps, NOT sufficient to even "cover the cost of the coal loader". This led to further information being verbally given, but backed up with more core samples to support the assertions as well as imaging of the faults, layers of coal and sedimentary deposits.

This information invariably led to discussion about the economic viability of the proposed Rocky Hill Coal mine. As well as AGL's scientific evidence we also noted that Stratford Coal had relinquished their licence over the area of interest (which Rocky Hill companies had taken up) stating their reason for giving up the licence was "not sufficient ACCESSIBLE coal" to warrant expansion of their operations. At the same time GRL's main representative, Mr Brian Wingate had been exposed for improper practices and was using intimidatory tactics with local property owners. With all this information it was not unreasonable for speculation about the legitimacy of the proposed new coal mine project.

Is the project legitimate? There is world wide evidence of similar mining schemes where investors were presented with pseudo-scientific information that implied good resources. Is it a scam, perhaps a front for money laundering? Is it a loop-hole for foreign investors to buy up prime Australian agricultural land which would not otherwise have been available except under the threat of mining? If the mine started to operate and it was found to be unviable how many jobs would be lost, who would pay out contractors if the company were declared bankrupt? Who would restore the land? The speculation and implications still continue.

Until now I have not made some of these facts public knowledge due to them been given in confidence but now that AGL is no longer involved in the region and there are calls for further submissions about the proposed Rocky Hill mine, I felt that it is appropriate to make my concerns known.

If this information is accurate, and I have no reason to doubt the efficacy of the sources (I am prepared to sign a statutory declaration about what was discussed with Lucas/AGL reps), and the Rocky Hill Coal Project is found to be economically unviable then any Government/s or agencies associated with what appears to be a 'questionable' deal will be tainted by association and perhaps even lose office if it could be shown they knew the facts or didn't demonstrate due diligence, prior to approval.

I strongly urge independent and government representatives to complete a proper economic study of this proposed coal project and not rely on the dubious projections of the project's promoters. I suspect you do not have accurate facts and figures to hand... the information provided by the company(s) appears to be questionable and based on limited estimations and projections (ref: amended DA/EIS). There are many economic flaws in the proposed project. Investors, contractors, employees and more will be adversely affected and will hold government/s or associated agencies accountable that have not done their homework and allow a project to commence that has the potential to lose billions of dollars of investors and tax payers money.

I am astonished by the possibility that this very economically-questionable Rocky Hill Coal Project can be even considered for approval.

Thanking you
Marianne Johnson
BA (psych), DipPE, TAE, Cert III hort, NDT

Marianne Johnson

Department of Planning

Received

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Scanning Room