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PCU067609

Director – Resource Assessments  
Planning Services  
Department of Planning and Environment  
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**ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT – APPLICATION NO SSD-5156**

**STRATFORD COAL EXTENSION PROJECT – APPLICATION NO SSD 4966 MOD 1**

Dear Sir/Madam

I oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project and the Stratford Mine Modification.

The Rocky Hill mine will be the beginning of the end for our beautiful town and valley if this mine is approved.

My late father (who passed away 19 years ago) had great concerns about our area when the Stratford mine opened. I didn't understand then what he was on about, but I certainly do now.

Employment at the Stratford and the Duralie mines boasted increased employment of locals, (what is classified as a local) when in fact the biggest majority were drive in/drive out. As a born and bred resident of Gloucester and a small business owner in the main street, I can certainly say that of the few locals employed at the mines a lot certainly do not shop locally. So I can really see if this mine goes ahead it will have a very big negative impact on many businesses including my own, because a lot of my good customers will leave the district. But on the other hand I can see some businesses thriving if the mines do come. It is very sad that mining has divided our beautiful valley to the point that a lot of people have said to me that they don't want the mines here but are not game to speak out because of being ostracised. This is very sad. We supposedly live in a democratic country, I can certainly accept the views of others, but they will not accept my views. The life expectancy of the mine is only 16 to 20 years, that is the same time span, since the year 2000 when we were being told the world was going to end. How quickly has that gone? So what do we do after the life of the mines?

It is very depressing that the government can dismiss our beautiful community as though it doesn't exist. This is a great agricultural valley and we would like it to stay that way. We need industries that will enhance our area not destroy it. We have a great industrial area, that if Mid Coast Water and Mid Coast Council didn't put such high costly conditions on, when businesses want to relocate, we would have great employment opportunities, that would not destroy our environment, and hopefully would be here a lot longer than the mines.

I am also very concerned about the effects this mine will have on our water ways, which not only supplies water to us, but to thousands of people down stream

Yes, we are all being told that this will not and cannot happen; no one can say that for sure.

So please, please do not approve this mine.

Yours Sincerely

