

10th October 2016.



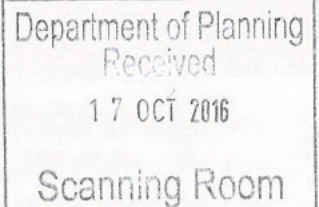
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Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY 2001.

Attention; Director- Resources and Energy.

PROJECT: ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT No: SSD 5156.

Dear Sir/madam,



While we were initially against this project in its initial form, we firmly believe that the Amended Rocky Hill Coal Project of August 2016 has addressed most of our concerns and should receive the Governmental approval to proceed in terms of that approval.

Referring to the Summary of the EIS and having attended an open public forum on the project, we believe that the project offers the Gloucester District, Hunter Region and NSW much greater benefits than a small list of seeming locality disruptions and some minimal loss of amenity over the relatively short term of 16 years.

The significant areas of the project to which we had initial concern related to the following points which we believe the applicant has taken appropriate measures to minimise, reduce or remove those concerns :-

1) Visual Impact - Mining Activity Close to Residences.

The removal of the overland conveyor, rail loop and rail load-out facility goes a long way to removing much of the local discontent against the project.

We are aware that there are many residents in the near-by Forbesdale Estate who do not have a concern with the current project. We note that the working mine area is approximately 1.5 km from the edge of the residential estate.

Construction of the long- term amenity barriers will greatly decrease the mine related components visible from residences and public vantage points. Very advanced tree screen plantings have already provided a good measure of limited visibility from most vantage points and the Bucketts Way.

2) Public Road Traffic - Movements/noise.

Re- routing most of the heavy hauling traffic “ in-land” or east of the main pit and other traffic via Waukivory Rd and McKinleys Lane significantly reduces traffic noise and number of movements.

Construction of a public road bridge over the Avon River, is another public benefit which the local Council and ratepayers have avoided expenditure to date.

3) Air Quality.

It would appear that the applicants early setting up of a comprehensive air quality monitoring network shows that dust levels both during construction and operation will be minor and would not exceed the applicable air quality criteria for TSP for PM10, 7 PM 2.5 and deposited dust at surrounding privately owned residences and receivers, especially the town of Gloucester or schools. There appears through modelling that the probability of additional exceedances will be a low risk.

4) Surface Water and Flooding.

From the consultants testing in and around the Avon “ River “ (ill named and poorly classified) and adjoining creeks adjacent and across the mine site point to a low risk of polluted waters into the Manning River, some 50km downstream. It would take a massive and continued flooding to push any pollution into the Manning River.

The Proponents stated handling of Clean, semi-laden and saline and diverted water and possible flood water impacts seem to result in negligible impacts even under extreme circumstances.

We note the mine is above the 1 in 100 year Waukivory/Avon River flood area.

5) Terrestrial Ecology – Farmland disturbance area.

We again note that while 500 ha the amended mine contains disturbance, that only 51.8 ha of native vegetation would be impacted leaving an effective cleared area of 41.5 ha or an average farming “paddock”. **The mine area does not contain highly productive land, as the land is mostly class 5 land.**

The proponent’s purchase and lease back of farmland and in particular dairy productive land (Speldon Partnership) has already positively impacted economically on the immediate area through increased employment and milk production.

6) Economic Benefits and Impacts.

From the listed benefits and impact statements, it would appear that that the benefits to the local, district state and Commonwealth far outweigh the impacts.

Of particular interest to our community are the initial and ongoing employment benefits and non- labour spending at a time when the other mine is phasing down and reducing employment levels.

Local Government and community groups will benefit from contributions/grants arising from the project.

Even if the stated impacts are greatly understated, the benefits far exceed costs.

State and Commonwealth government's benefits are significant totalling \$337m over the life of the project.

In summary, we firmly believe that this project should be approved to proceed as outlined in its Development Application for the greater good of our otherwise small community with its limited prospects for further growth and long term sustainability for its current and future residents.

We have NOT made any reportable political donations in the past two years.

Yours sincerely