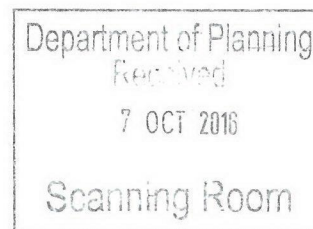




FRANK HOOKE  
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4 October 2016

Director-Resource Assessments  
Planning Services  
Department of Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001



**ROCKY HILL COAL PROJECT-APPLICATION NoSSD-5156**

Dear Sir/Madam

For three serious reasons I oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project and modification to the Stratford Coal Extension Project.

I reside at 209 Faulkland Road, Gloucester, not far from the Rocky Hill project site and a little further from the Stratford coal mine, but close enough to have been adversely impacted by fallout from that mine.

I have followed in close detail the activities and the operational and development proposals of the Stratford and Rocky Hill mines.

My opposition is based on the following issues:

**1. GRI'S MISLEADING INFORMATION ON THE ROCKY HILL MINING PROCEDURE**

I recently attended the premises housing the Rocky Hill display in Gloucester. Mr Bob Corbett, Group Environmental Co-ordinator for AMIC acted as presenter of the EIS to explain to me the new mine proposal.

I asked about the dust impact of the mine on the Gloucester residents as the mine is very close to the town, including the hospital, 3 schools and a proposed retirement home. Mr Corbett assured me there would be 'no dust'.

I asked about the dust from blasting. Mr Corbett on several occasions stated,

'There will be no blasting. Blasting will not be necessary as all mining will be done with excavators.'

As I left, at my request, Mr Corbett gave me computer stick on which was a copy of the EIS. When I reviewed the data it stated that there would be, blasting, almost daily.

Evidence from Canada and USA suggests that an open cut coal mine, within a 5 kilometre radius, increases heart, lung and other chest conditions and birth defects.

I have considerable background knowledge of resource projects and searched, unsuccessfully, for support for Mr Corbett's statement.

Most citizens would have taken Mr Corbett's assertion at face value and probably refrained from lodging a complaint about the project.

## **2. GRL'S MISLEADING INFORMATION ON SITE REHABILITATION**

I enquired of Mr Corbett about the concept of a 'void' remaining after mining ceased.

Mr Corbett informed me that there would be no 'void'. All overburden and waste soil from between the coal seams would be returned to the pit.

A local experienced farmer asked how this could not leave a 'void' after several million tonnes of coal had been removed.

Mr Corbett responded that soil expands when dug and, as a result, would more than fill the pit. The fellow who asked the question and I both stated that from our experience as farmers, that for a short period there may be no void but after rain the soil compacted again and a hollow or 'void' would be formed.

Again, someone who was not familiar with dealing with soil would have been totally misled by Mr Corbett and not lodged a complaint about the impact of the mine.

*After the mine is abandoned, who would be responsible to protect the community, animals and native fauna long term against the perils of a remaining 'void'.*

One can only wonder at what other incorrect and misleading assertions have been made by representatives of Gloucester Resources to other members of our community.

## **3. LACK OF CONSIDERATION ON THE IMPACT OF MINING**

The operators at Stratford have not demonstrated consideration for the local Stratford community or the wider Gloucester community.

Some 14 years ago they publicly stated that the 'void', when the mine ceased operating and the site abandoned, would be a tourist attraction and suitable for all human water activities.

They now acknowledge that the water in the 'void' will only be suitable for killing plants, animals and people.

There are now to be 3 'voids' left when the Stratford mine is abandoned. The largest of these 'voids' will be about 285 metres deep and 85 hectares in surface area.

This outcome is apparently acceptable to the New South Wales Government as no safety requirements have been advanced.

*When the operator has abandoned the mine, who is to be responsible for maintaining fencing to protect humans and cattle? What protection will be in place to protect native fauna?*



## QUESTIONABLE CURRENT RELEVANCE OF MATERIAL IN THE EIS

My comments should also be considered in relation to other aspects of the EIS material submitted by the Gloucester Resources in explanation of this project.

Much of the material in the 'new' EIS relates to interviews and meetings about 3 to 4 years ago. Some material is still relevant but some is not:

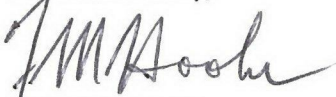
1. Theresa Ryan moved from Gloucester about 2 years ago: clause 4.1.2.11;
2. Graham Gardener resigned from Gloucester Shire Council about 2 years ago: clause 4.1.21;
3. A community meeting referred to was held on 25 November 2011: clause 4.1.5;
4. An information session referred to was held 26 March 2012: clause 4.1.5.
5. References to AGL's project do not recognise that the project was abandoned some months ago;
6. Reference to Advance Gloucester's chairman does not note that at the time of the interview he lived and worked some 30km outside Gloucester Shire: clause 4.2.3;
7. Reference to Council's public advocacy against Rocky Hill and, the silent but significant percentage of the population supporting the project, fails to recognise two important points:
  - a. at the last election for the Gloucester Council about 80% of votes cast were in favour of candidates publicly opposed to the Rocky Hill project;
  - b. AGL did a survey which found that only about 10% of Gloucester residents supported their project. Similar assertions of a cowered silent community were made about support for that project. That project would have had less impact on the Shire than would Rocky Hill. There is little evidence to support the concept of a significant number of residents supporting the Rocky Hill mine apart from the understandable self-interest of the people quoted.

Other examples of the long term disregard and lack of concern by both mining companies for the Gloucester community can be provided.

Granting approval to mine at Rocky Hill can only damage this community for little, if any, real value to the community or to the State of New South Wales.

I oppose this project and request it not be permitted to damage the Gloucester Valley, the town of Gloucester and the Gloucester community.

Yours faithfully,



FRANK HOOKE