

Christian Watts

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Date: 4/10/2016

Director – Resource Assessments
Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Rocky Hill Coal Project – Application No SSD-5156
Stratford Coal Extension Project – Application No SSD - 4966 MOD 1

Dear Sir/Madam

I strongly oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project and Stratford Mine modification on the following grounds

1. Personal

I have family and friends in Gloucester and regularly visit the beautiful town and its surroundings. The thought that they might build an open cut coal mine so close to town upsets me and my family. If built, the mine will have a serious and adverse impact on the Gloucester community.

2. Proximity to residential areas

The mine is proposed only 900metres from the residential area of Forbesdale. These 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. I know my family have friends who live in this area and they are devastated by the prospect of the mine being built.

2. 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, including my family, at risk. Those most affected by the health impacts are the very young, the elderly and the sick.

3. Impact on Tourism, worth \$51M per annum to the Gloucester economy

An open-cut coalmine within 5km of Gloucester and within sight of the Bucketts Way will have an impact on the visual amenity of the area. The mine will risk the jobs of hundreds employed in the tourism industry.

4. Environment

The proposed mine is on the Avon River floodplain and in the catchment area of the Manning River, which supplies drinking water to over 80,000 people. The Avon River

has flooded 5 times in 4 years, with 2 floods occurring in 2013. There is definite potential for contamination of the water in the catchment.

This mine should not be approved

Yours faithfully

Christian Watts

I have not made a reportable political donation