

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been a resident of Gloucester for 40 years and I support the Rocky Hill Coal Project (SSD 5156), and the Stratford Extension Project MOD 1 (SSD 4966).

When I moved to Gloucester over 40 years ago the town was thriving due to timber, dairy and mining resources. As decisions have been made by governments over the years Gloucester has slowly died. Many trades have also developed from these industries. At the time I moved here we had five car dealerships and many garages, now there are no dealerships here, three garages that are struggling also, and there have not been any dealerships here for many years. The number of dairies in the district has also dropped significantly.

I am also a member of the Chamber of Commerce and support trying to get new industry here in Gloucester, but mind you not at any cost. In my mind if the business involved ticks all the regulations the Government has asked of it, it is therefore beholden of the Government to make sure that all environmental issues are strictly adhered to. In saying that I hope that G.R.L. remediate the sight as has been proposed.

With both AGL and GRL I have made sure that I have been informed and was instrumental with AGL in making sure that jobs would be provided for locals, apprenticeships, trades and the indigenous people would all belong to a strong local workforce and the idea with AGL was that they shop local first, unfortunately AGL did not go ahead here and has had a disastrous effect on many businesses, and they have not recovered. I am aware that the Chamber is working towards the same scheme with the Rocky Hill Project. It is not only the projected jobs that will come from Rocky Hill but the flow on effect for all businesses.

Not only businesses have suffered from the downturn but so have schools and sadly we have lost a generation of young people who wanted to bring their children up in the same environment they themselves grew up in, but were forced to move from here to find work further afield, and there are also those that travel many miles and live away from home to work.

Our business is in the main street of town and over the years we have subject to a lot of abuse from Groundswell and its members, our business was also black-listed and still is. We are entitled to our opinion, and it may differ from theirs but I have not been party to abuse. This town is greatly divided and it is not from the mines wholly and solely.

Many self-funded retirees have moved over the last few years and have not seen Gloucester at its peak. We cannot survive on tourism alone, and I'm quite sure that could be said of a lot of towns. You will always need trades to satisfy the needs of a town.

I support both projects and hope that Gloucester's will once again thrive into the future.

I thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]