

NSW Planning Assessment Commission
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

9 November 2017

Dear Sirs/Madam,

re: Rocky Hill Coal Project (SSD 5156), Stratford Extension Project MOD 1 (SSD 4966 MOD 1)

We object to the Rocky Hill Coal Project and we request that the NSW Planning Assessment Commission reject it too.

It is too close to Gloucester, too risky for Gloucester residents and tourists, too risky for tourism businesses such as ours, and too risky for the sustainable future of our region.

Rocky Hill's threat to our business

Barrington Outdoor Adventure Centre is an adventure tour company based in Gloucester and we have been guiding tourists in the area since 1982. Our business is nature-based and our ethos is sustainable tourism with protection of the environment. We are the longest established tourism operator in the region, literally being pioneers for nature-based tourism for Barrington Tops. Our customer experiences include white water canoeing and kayaking, mountain bike riding, trekking, abseiling, guided wilderness tours, outdoor education programs and camping. Scenic nature is our business so any activity that threatens the scenic nature of our region also threatens our business. The Rocky Hill Coal Project is a clear and present danger to us.

Rocky Hill's threat to Gloucester tourism

However it's not just our business that is threatened, there are many others whose tourist clientele will stop visiting due to the risks of noise, dust and industrial ugliness that will destroy their visitor experience.

The Stroud-Gloucester valley has been recognised for its scenic beauty for many years, described by the National Trust as "a significant heritage landscape" and it also benefits from the World Heritage listing of nearby Barrington Tops National Park. Accordingly, tourism is one of the Gloucester region's significant industries, as recognised by countless documents published by our local council and Destination NSW: ongoing independent research shows tourism generates over \$51 million annually for Gloucester. This is at risk from Rocky Hill.

Our business contributes significantly towards the annual \$51 million and in peak periods we employ up to 30 staff. As a family-owned company with a long history in Gloucester, we use local suppliers and our profits are reinvested in the business with ongoing economic benefits to the local area. This is at risk from Rocky Hill.

Any activity that threatens the scenic nature of our region therefore threatens Gloucester tourism. As tourism is one of the region's major sustainable industries, the economic sustainability of our town is under threat from the Rocky Hill Coal project.

Rocky Hill's threat to Midcoast tourism

Our newly-merged Midcoast Council has just published their inaugural Destination Management Plan which is a requirement of the NSW Government. It states a clear direction for our region to become renowned for nature and adventure-based tourism. There are significant opportunities to grow the Midcoast tourism industry to over \$1.55 billion by 2030 (up 270% from the current value of \$570 million). But you can't be renowned for nature and adventure-based tourism with an open-cut coal mine at your doorstep for 21 years. The Gloucester portion of this huge opportunity will be at risk if the Rocky Hill Coal Project is approved.

We reject Rocky Hill. Our tourism industry rejects Rocky Hill. Our town rejects Rocky Hill. Our council rejects Rocky Hill. The NSW Planning Department rejects Rocky Hill. We implore the PAC to reject Rocky Hill too.

Sincerely,

Brian and Naomi Kilby

Directors

Barrington Outdoor Adventure Centre Pty Ltd

██████████, Gloucester NSW 2422 tel. ██████████