



"Hughendon"

Barrington NSW 2324.

Planning Assessment Commission  
Commission Secretariat  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth St.  
Sydney. NSW 2000.

Dear Sir/madam,

**Rocky Hill Mine – Meeting with Planning Commission 14<sup>th</sup>& 15<sup>th</sup> November at Gloucester.**

I was in attendance with my wife over the two days of addresses with the Commission in Gloucester and I could not believe some of the outright lies made by so many speakers.

Seven generations of the McSwans have lived in the Gloucester district. Three generations are still working in the area.

No speaker mentioned the 45 men who were retrenched from the Durali Mines late last year or the other 40 -50 left at Durali who might be retrenched next April. Many speakers spoke of Mental Health Issues, but failed to mention these men who were retrenched or about to be retrenched, the majority of whom are young men with families and mortgages, not retired pensioners with healthy superannuation or pensions.

Some of those retrenched have now had to join the "fly in – fly out" workers in the Hunter Valley. Many mining families have left town. I must also note that the timing scheduling of the these meetings was unacceptable as these workers would have to take two days off work to attend, so their views will never now be known to you nor others attending these meetings.

One speaker spoke of the intimidation of people in the community. If you support this mine you cannot openly mention that support in front of the "Knitting Nannas" nor the Greens and hired protesters. Intimidation seems to be running in only one direction.

The land over which the mine is proposed is classed as the lowest rating agricultural land in the area. Contrary to opinion, the project area will not be visible to traffic on the Waukivory Road nor from the Mograni lookout.

When some of the speakers who are against the mine moved to town, Stratford and Durali mines were in full production from 1995. We have been amused over the years when newcomers commented that they were here for some years before they knew where the Stratford mine was located, despite driving past it coming into town. The Stratford mine started bringing jobs and job security for some of our young people.

I cannot not believe that people can readily accept the figures bandied about the value that tourism brings to the area. The figures defy simple maths and observation. I hope GRL will eventually debunk these grossly exaggerated figures.

Our town has been through massive deregulation of the dairy industry with massive job losses from 1990 - from 145 dairies to 15 today and the demise of the timber industry with many more jobs lost - 11 sawmills to one today.

As I stated earlier, ~~five~~<sup>7</sup> generations of McSwans have lived here and three generations are still working here with our fourth living generation is now growing up here. Hopefully their father can keep his job in the mine and their grandfather can come back here to work and enjoy his grandchildren and we can enjoy our son, grandson and grandchildren!

Our town and district need this mine to be approved for the jobs and flow- on businesses and industry it will bring and add to the social wellbeing our great little community where everyone can share in its wealth.

Please do not let your decision be influenced by the "Green like" protesters to destroy our town and district.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Hamilton McSwan.

Hamilton McSwan

17<sup>th</sup> November 2017.