

I am a third generation farmer. The furthest I have moved is from the back bedroom to the front bedroom and I have seen the prosperity that mining has brought to the Gloucester region, which is why I support the Rocky Hill mine proposal.

I have been lucky enough to see how my grandparents and parents and their generations have worked to build schools, hospitals and sporting facilities in this town and I fear these facilities will deteriorate, and our ability to continue to upgrade and build on their legacy, will be lost if we don't welcome other industries to town.

In days gone by when industry was active around Gloucester, this town was thriving at 6am. On both sides of the street people were lined up. Now you can fire a gun up the street at that hour of the day. The clubs used to be well patronised and were more financial during mining times.

Since mining has left, the golf club has been on the brink of closure. The golf club restaurant closed, has since been reopened trying to attract customers to the club. The other clubs were also battling. We have seen an overall the downturn in businesses – engineering, mechanics, service industries – they have all suffered.

All cafes are struggling. People trying to get out of business but they can't. So many businesses are for sale, but they can't sell. They are trapped.

Gloucester has survived on opportunity. They don't come often and little towns like ours have to take every opportunity.

We should be grasping to get the mine so we have access to development of infrastructure that will move out town forward. We don't want to be miners forever, but if mining can help us build the town, why not take the opportunity to gain funds from the mine and gain infrastructure for our town to progress?

Gloucester has been built on mining – gold mining, lime mining, coal mining. There used to be a coal mine where King George park is now.

When making a decision about this mine – don't dismiss Gloucester past, or its future. We are a mining community, and mining will help us take the next steps towards a bright future

Lindsay Fraser