

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PAC Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Rocky Hill Coal Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, 15 November 2017 9:49:31 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I am unable to attend the PAC hearing in Gloucester to address you personally, but I wish to strongly urge you to reject this mine.

I was surprised but relieved that the Dept. of Planning rejected the Rocky Hill Coal Project. It was the only sane and just decision if people and communities are to be treated as more than collateral damage for coal.

Rocky Hill has always been a ludicrously/dangerously misplaced mine proposal site, far too close to Gloucester township.

Having seen first hand the escalating air, noise and water pollution impacts on town, village and rural residents in the Hunter Valley from Singleton to Muswellbrook and westwards, I am well aware that no amount of conditions has protected the health and amenity of these people and places.

For example, in September 2017 alone there were over 70 air pollution breaches in that monitored part of the Hunter.

No matter what maximum pollution levels are set or what a company promises, breaches always occur and ways are always found to get around them to operate more profitably, or amendments to those conditions are sought. Monitoring of compliance is inadequate, usually done more by impacted locals, and punishment for breaches is so pathetically low as to be no deterrent.

It is too late once a mine begins.

In 2012 my book, 'Rich Land, Wasteland', on the impacts of coal and CSG nationally, was published. The chapter on just Gloucester and Margaret River (W.A.) was called 'Allowing the unthinkable', for both these areas ought never to have had coal exploration licences given out in them. Coincidentally the companies involved as major threats there were linked.

In both these regions the threats to water, existing landuse, clean air, scenic beauty and thus tourism were so obvious, and yet the locals had to fight the coal proposals for years, while investment stagnated and communities fractured, the divisions actively fostered by the coal companies. As the gateway to Gloucester Tops and the Barringtons, and with its alpine-fed rushing streams and rivers, Gloucester is even more blessed as a natural tourism attractor.

A dirty industrial project like Rocky Hill will change all this and the town itself in the most negative ways, as I have seen elsewhere.

For it is not only in the Hunter that I witnessed the tragic demise of rural areas from coal, despite the pre-approval promises and conditions. I travelled to every state where coal mining existed or was mooted and talked to those impacted people. The stress undergone in the long assessment/approval process is enormous, and so thus is the mental health damage.

The people of Gloucester have suffered enough, not only via GRL but also the AGL/CSG project, equally ill-advised.

Please do not allow the mine proposal to proceed any further, to keep looming over the area, let alone allow it to become a reality and wreck the health and futures of the residents of this very beautiful and successful clean, green and gourmet valley.

For I can assure you that is what would be the result; would you really wish to be culpable for that?

Yours sincerely,

Sharyn Munro

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