

Good evening Commissioners Ms Briggs, Mr Hutton & Mr Hann

I totally support the Department of Planning & Environment's recommendations to not approve the Rocky Hill Coal Project.

I moved to Gloucester in 1981 and was a Science teacher & then Head Teacher at Gloucester High School for 29 years before I retired. I have lived in the Gloucester township for this period of time and have raised my children in this beautiful, clean country town.

The Gloucester valley is a fertile agricultural area with huge scenic value for myself, a lot of the community & people from afar as they travel through the district.

The underlying syncline, which holds the coal beds deep within its folds would require an open cut mine up to 190m deep to extract the coal. The removal of the overburden would create excessive noise & dust to the main Gloucester township as wind often funnels up the valley. The established residential areas on Gloucester's south east edges would particularly suffer from the noise & reduced air quality due to their close proximity to the proposed mine boundary.

Coal dust laden air is known to produce impacts on health, especially in children & the elderly. The continual and often loud noise from blasting & machinery will interfere with everyday life for the residents.

A short distance south on the Bucketts Way, along which we travel regularly, is ^{was} Wards River Station. This farm used to be a picturesque, fertile farm, a pleasure to view. Now, as we travel we view the huge piles of overburden from the existing mine. We watch the trucks disappear down the steep slopes and often witness clouds of dust billowing towards the roadway. I do not want this sight to fill our beautiful valley on our towns' eastern boundary for up to the next 21 years.

The Avon river runs within the valley and the disturbance to its flow from a mine will surely reduce its water quality & hence the quality of the Manning River into which it ultimately flows and provides water for large populations towards the coast.

The Rocky Hill Coal Project is a plan to build a mine in the wrong place, destroying Gloucester's scenic beauty and far too close to existing residential areas. I recommend that the Planning Assessment Commission does not approve the project.

Thank you

Vicki Coombes


Gloucester, 2422