

As a past Gloucester Councillor, I have served on not only the Rocky Hill Consultative Committee, but also the Stratford Coal Consultative Committee. Presently, I am a community representative of the Duralie Coal Consultative Committee, a committee on which I have served for about 18 Years.

I acknowledge that the Rocky Hill representatives have offered the community and MidCoast Council, substantially more than the other mines. However, one might question why this so? A good indicator of this question would be the fact that the previous owners of the exploration lease, Gloucester Coal, relinquished their exploration lease entitlements on what is now Rocky Hill. When I questioned the manager of Yancoal, formally Gloucester Coal, about this, he stated and I quote "we would never have mined there (Rocky Hill) because it is too close to Gloucester". And that commissioners, is the crux of the matter. It is just too close.

I understand that the proponents propose measures to mitigate the many concerns of dust and noise. They state that they will put a large barrier between the mine and Gloucester. The building of this barrier will in itself create a large amount of noise and dust for many months. It can take years to complete and rehabilitate the area. I went to Stratford coal last week and they are still rehabilitating their mining area even though they haven't mined there for three years. Even when completed the barrier will not work, noise and dust do not travel in straight lines. Unless the proponents propose to put a roof over the whole area, Gloucester citizens will have to suffer many years of noise and dust. It is worthy to note that over 35% of the Gloucester Population is under 16 or over 65. Our most vulnerable residents.

I drive past the proposed mine twice daily. The visual amenity will change from an idyllic dairy farm to a quarry. Nothing that the proponents can do will change that.

I have also not heard what will happen to our airstrip, will it be relocated or will it just disappear? It would be a great loss to the local aero club and tourism if it were to disappear.

The Department of Planning has rejected the proposal, a rare act indeed, based on the projects proximity to existing residential areas. They also believe that noise, dust and visual amenity will have significant impacts on Gloucester residents.

In conclusion, commissioners, we have plenty of mines in New South Wales and we have plenty of areas that have an abundance of coal. Why should you allow a mine to go ahead that will without doubt effect the health and well-being of the residents of the town of Gloucester? I can only recommend that the Commission not approve the development. It is just too close. Thank You.

Tony Tersteeg.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Tersteeg', written in a cursive style.





