

I'm Ed Robinson a beef farmer on Jacks Road and I would like to thank the Planning Department for rejecting the Rocky Hill Coal Mine as I have been living with the uncertainty of a coal mine on my boundary for 10 years.

For 10 yrs. now our 400-acre beef farm has been in maintenance mode only, as we have waited out the long stressful fight over the possibility of an open cut coal mine so close to my farm and town. The value of our property is almost non-existent when an open cut coal mine is right next door.

The threat of visual pollution, noise, dust, blasting and traffic has been an ongoing stress to me and my family. In all this time, we have had no personal communication with GRL yet GRL borders our eastern and southern boundaries. They keep saying they have communicated with the community and farmers but GRL have not communicated with us at all.

Water is critically important to our farming business, with double frontage to the Avon River we would be the first property effected if any errors or miss calculations occurred with surface or ground water from this open cut mine.

15 years ago there was a thriving community living on the south side of town. Once these farms and farmlets were purchased by GRL and the owners moved out, this area deteriorated greatly. 80 to 100 people were displaced, Speldon Partnership now utilise the best of this land, mainly the flood plain.

For GRL to say that only 1.2 full time positions equate to the loss in carrying capacity of 265 head of cattle on these properties, which GRL bought, is a stretch of the imagination, when so many families were displaced.

The departments conclusion on agricultural impacts 6.15.3 that the mines work force will offset this agricultural employment, is in my mind not correct.

I believe in coming years dairy and beef production on land in close proximity to mining will be shown to be not sustainable because of airborne and water contamination. At this point in time milk and beef processors do not comprehensively test for a range of contaminants in their products. If residues are discovered we could see a complete stop to our beef and dairy exports.

GRL mentions that with successful management of noise vibration and air emissions, visitors would not be aware of the mines existence without being informed. Visitors to my property won't need to be informed that there is a mine over the back fence they will see it and hear it and feel it from all aspects of my house and property.

With 3 rural residential estates in close proximity to this green field coal mine there will be 100's of families affected, all well within 3kms of this mine.

After 10 yrs of fighting an open cut green field coal mine & CSG it is time that both the petroleum and coal licences be removed from this scenic valley so I and others have some certainty for our future.

I recommend that the Planning Assessment Commission not approved the Rocky Hill Project now or in the future.

Ed Robinson