



14th November 2017

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Rocky Hill Coal Project (SSD 5156)
Stratford Extension Project MOD 1 (SSD 4966 MOD 1)

Attention : Commission Secretariat

Advance Gloucester acknowledges and very much appreciates the opportunity to address the Commissioners here today and wishes to register our support for both the Gloucester Resources Limited (GRL) Rocky Hill Coal Project and the YanCoal Stratford Extension Project Modification.

Background of Advance Gloucester

Advance Gloucester initially formed in November 2013, out of the frustration of having our region largely portrayed in a negative way, by opponents of extractive industries. We acknowledge that extractive industries are not for everyone and do present challenges to any community or landscape that they are proposing to enter into, which unquestionably need to be carefully considered during determination and stringently managed if approved.

That said, we totally deplore the heavy reliance of local opponents on individuals and interest groups from outside our region, who are attempting to dictate what we can and can't do on our own patch under the guise of free speech.

Our members come from a healthy mix of relatively short regional tenures through to commercial and social investments spanning decades and in the majority of cases, multiple generations.

The four mainstays of Advance Gloucester are agriculture, resources, industry and commerce with members comprising commercial interests in dairy, beef, mining, engineering, real estate, hospitality, tourism and accommodation, mainstream businesses, livestock and bulk transport as well as residential.

Some members have also had prior experience on former Gloucester Councils, holding office in councillor, Mayor and Deputy Mayor positions. Advance Gloucester has adopted a regional approach that is not restricted to either the Gloucester township or that of the former Gloucester LGA model.

In all cases, our members are 'hardwired' into our community and have a genuine, authentic interest in encouraging our region to prosper by being allowed the basic right to embrace a mix of drivers, that will help sustain our region both socially and economically into the future.

As an indication of our authenticity, Advance Gloucester does not do social media, does not have a web site - some of our members don't even have email or mobile phone - and we don't have Alan Jones on speed dial.

We don't canvass surveys or form letters, we don't do letterbox drops, street marches, spray paint slogans on roads or nail signs to trees or power poles. We clearly have absolutely no influence over the former or current Council and we don't share the former MidCoast Council Administrator's opinions – which NSW Planning seemed desperate in quoting numerous times, to help justify their refusal.

However, what we do have is an undeniable passion for our region's right and ability to continually evolve, by embracing opportunities when they present, acknowledging challenges when they arise and working patiently towards tolerance while in progress.

These basic traits have become engrained in our DNA over many decades, through flood, fire and drought, industry rationalisation - even industry exit - alongside changing demographic and social trends.

We feel it is unfortunate and has been extremely damaging to the image of the Gloucester region, to be continually used as a pawn in the global anti-resources / anti fossil fuels debate. As such, we expect GRL's proposal will be assessed purely on its merits, with external factors mentioned, being taken into full consideration.

Advance Gloucester is respectful of the valuable contribution that tourism plays within the local economy and that the Greater Gloucester region has as much to offer the people that come here as it has to gain. That said, it is the observation and experience of our members that tourism will not sustain this region to the significant degree required, if further industry is not allowed to be entertained.

The greater Gloucester region requires a stable 365 day economy to sustain itself, one that doesn't principally rely on favourable weather, a comfortable climate, holiday periods or weekends to flourish.

There are plenty of examples of rural towns

- which like ours - have become economically challenged by the loss or downsizing of their historic mainstays. Despite well-intentioned tourist marketing in these areas, a predominant 3-day-a-week tourist economy begins to develop, with a resultant drift of youth and stifled investment as the unintended consequence.

Aside from the obvious benefits of servicing the tourist and recreation markets, the pitfalls are ironically just that – it is catering to a temporary visitor market predominantly on a budget or looking for a low cost holiday option. This is reflected in the popularity of the various free camping sites around the region, which incidentally, are far removed from the proposed mine site.

We desperately need reasons for people to relocate here full time, populate our schools, sustain our sporting and social clubs and gain sufficient confidence to invest in further business in our region.

Advance Gloucester members have endeavoured to avail themselves of every opportunity to become informed of the Rocky Hill proposal, having invited GRL to present to our meetings on two occasions – the first when it was rumoured that GRL were revisiting their project after being 'on-hold' for some time and again during the exhibition period, where a full presentation of the lodged proposal was provided.

Many of our members have also visited GRL's shop front in town as well as undertaking site tours, which aided immeasurably in 'ground-truthing' what the proposal involves. Most importantly, these

opportunities clearly identified and demonstrated a definitive variation from the emotive and potentially misleading information and claims from groups opposing this development – regardless of merit or otherwise.

Additionally, some of our members have been actively involved on various Community Consultative Committees relating to various resource projects in the region. These opportunities have also provided extensive site tours viewing active mining, water management and monitoring, rehabilitation and the reinstatement of highly productive agricultural and grazing activities and biodiversity offset areas post mining.

I personally have had the opportunity to extensively visit YanCoal's Stratford and Duralie operations, Glencore's Ravensworth and Liddell operations as well as Whitehaven's Werris Creek and Maul's Creek operations. This provided the opportunity to absorb aspects of proposals involving various scales of operation at various stages of mine life – from start up to end of life.

Response to Reasons for Refusal

1. Site not suitable

We would like to emphasise the fact that NSW Planning notes the project is fully permissible within the proposed location. However, this is in complete conflict with the Dept's own recommendation to refuse the project, even though it concludes further, that the amended project would actually meet the non-discretionary standards of Clause 12AB of the Mining SEPP.

The actual physical location of proposed extraction activity, is we feel not reflective of the level of alleged affectation as many articulate. The most common comment from people who have bothered to avail themselves of site visit opportunities is "Is that where it is?" when realising there is to be no extraction south west of Gloucester Aero Club's existing airstrip – which is itself proposed to be realigned 15% to allow continual operation of the facility past the north west tip of pit extent.

The Gloucester Basin, particularly the northern extent, has been poked, prodded, 'seismiced' and 'aeromaged' extensively over recent years by all resource companies. Despite its complex geology, this basin must surely now be one of the most comprehensively documented and understood basins anywhere in the state, if not Australia.

Along similar lines, this same area has been extensively monitored for surface water during both high and low flow sequences over many seasons, as well as groundwater to various depths in order to establish baseline levels and interactions. Coupled with investment by the NSW Government in a number of ground water monitoring bores on adjoining private property, this will help give a far greater level of independence and integrity to baseline conditions, as well as identifying any impacts going forward in a timely manner.

As part of AGL's Gloucester Gas Project exploration, they conducted an extensive investigation of baseline methane levels throughout the entire basin area using highly sensitive Picarro dynamic measuring equipment which was vehicle mounted. A GPS defined route was established, running south from Gloucester along the Bucketts Way to Stroud Road, looping back northward up along Mammy Johnson's Creek around YanCoal's active Duralie operations with samples collected enroute every 15 seconds.

The route also included areas around housing estates in close proximity to AGL's proposed Stage 1 area, as well as areas bordering Gloucester township to the north, including the then MidCoast Water Sewerage Treatment Plant and the Gloucester Council Landfill site via public access roads.

This procedure was repeated twice in entirety at different times of the year to capture any seasonal variations. On each occasion, both landfill and treatment plant locations registered the highest

along the route, with the treatment plant actually exceeding recommended ambient methane levels both times.

At no time during either baseline measurement were discernible elevated levels of methane detected around active mining areas. This is in direct contrast to the elevated levels identified bordering residential estates on the opposite side of town from the proposed Rocky Hill site, the direct consequence of waste streams generated by both ratepayers and tourists alike.

The continued operation of the Speldon Dairy throughout the life of the proposal, is also seen as a proactive way of both maintaining agricultural production as well as substantially mitigating the overall visual impacts, as this substantial dairy enterprise will continue to operate in the foreground of any disturbed lands, maintaining established pastures and contributing to the existing visual aspect as viewed from nearby housing estates.

2. Too close to Town – unacceptable risks of noise, blasting & air quality impacts for residents

As mentioned earlier, we found it curious that the Dept. relied numerous times on the opinions of the former MidCoast Council Administrator for further justification to refuse.

Gloucester's economic and social heritage grew around the establishment and concurrent existence of industrial activity in far closer proximity than that proposed by GRL. Saleyards at one point existed at Billabong Park with timber mills at either end of town and a busy railhead and butter factory to one side.

During this period, residents and community coexisted quite amicably, without any perceived or documented health, social or economic impediments despite most living either along the street or a few blocks from any one of these activities.

Gloucester seemingly survived all the heavy vehicle movements and in the case of the timber mills and butter factory specifically, also survived the burning of timber waste and sawdust almost seven days a week, most definitely generating high levels of fine particulates.

Many here today would never have experienced the shrill of the big Canadian bandsaw ripping through hardwood billets or the high capacity chipper that supplied bulk product, which was then transported for further processing at Heatherbrae or exported overseas.

This is in stark contrast to the extreme impediments that are eluded to, by those concerned that they will experience completely untenable and devastating effects on both our region's image and their own personal wealth and wellbeing as the result of GRL's proposal.

It is understood that GRL has been undertaking pM2.5 monitoring for approx. five years, in order to establish existing background levels of particulate matter. This finer level of monitoring would no doubt provide the proponent and compliance agencies with a more relevant indication of any induced impacts during operation and as such, 'sets the bar high' for the proponent to operate within prescribed limits.

We are amused that it is alleged that all future increases in the incidence and severity of asthma cases will be attributed in total to the Rocky Hill mine if approved. It is no secret that rural environments that rely on pastures, particularly ryegrass & kikuyu as are dominant here, produce airborne pollens and irritants which induce higher levels of hay fever during spring and summer. This coupled with damp and cooler conditions experienced throughout the shorter daylight periods of the year, also harbours mould and mildew growth in homes through condensation.

Riparian corridors throughout our region are also struggling with the invasion of narrow-leafed privet, who's flowering habits also contribute to respiratory irritation. This rampant shallow rooted

noxious weed is also being observed to impact on low flows in minor creeks and rivers, as it seeks to soak up opportunistic amounts of residual moisture to ensure survival.

3. Unacceptable Visual Impacts

The issue relating to visual impacts is of subjective value, as visual amenity by its very nature, is in a state of constant change. It is acknowledged that while these changes will be perceived as being totally obnoxious to some; far more justifiably so by those in close proximity; there are others in exactly the same location that are indicating a far higher level of acceptance of impact and visual change.

These very subdivisions, themselves straddled between the increasingly busy Bucketts Way and the North Coast Railway Corridor, have contributed to a highly modified visual landscape, in comparison to the rolling pastures that existed prior. That landscape is now lost in perpetuity, unlike GRL's proposal that commits to reinstating the existing landscape back to similar, post mining.

Comments by opponents relating to the obscenity of tree lined screenings established by the proponent, need look no further than private plantings bordering residential estates to see even more irony when trying to exploit perceived tourist hesitation.

This region receives substantially higher annual rainfall than other mining regions. As a result, natural screenings and rehabilitation are extremely successful as well as being rapid in establishment. This can be evidenced at both YanCoal's Duralie and Stratford operations, where in longer established areas, the uninformed would struggle to determine natural verses modified landforms.

4. Unacceptable Social Impacts

NSW Planning's assessment of this is intriguing.

In addition to our members, we also have the subdued support of further local businesses, families and individuals that have either been made to feel uncomfortable or anxious about publically declaring their position, or as has been the case, actually had their businesses identified by opposers in an effort to encourage the boycotting of patronage. As such, they find themselves unable to be seen overtly supporting either the Rocky Hill project or Advance Gloucester. We find this level of intimidation socially unacceptable.

General economic downturn since the scaling back of YanCoal operations has also contributed to some local businesses experiencing less than buoyant trading opportunity, despite claimed benefits of increasing tourism over the same period.

Having said that, overall social benefits gained by our region as the result of the resources sector cannot be overstated. While direct and indirect employment benefits are well understood, perhaps what may be surprising, is the non-resource related benefits leveraged from their very existence.

Advance Gloucester approached GRL, AGL & YanCoal in an effort to quantify total financial contributions made to the region during their combined tenures. Since 1994, a total of nearly 9.5 million dollars has been contributed – in round terms \$5.7million (60%) by way of provisions paid as the result of consent obligations to respective Councils, with the remaining \$3.8 million (40%) paid as voluntary non-obligated payments.

Of note are two extraordinary examples of positive social benefit, external to the resources sector.

Stratford Coal Education Support Fund - commenced 1997 distributing \$680K to date amongst locally schooled kids to support :-

- 160 tertiary scholarships
- 85 apprenticeships
- 50 businesses
- With \$80K allocated to 6 local schools for their discretionary use.

AGL's Gloucester Independent Community Legacy Fund - \$2 million creating 71 new full time jobs by 2020 through the committed expansion of 11 local businesses, with one actually relocating from another region.

This has been estimated by Senior Business Connect Mentor & Advisor Mike Hilsdon, to capture an annual increase in sales income from outside the Gloucester region of over \$4.5million per year while boosting the local economy with :-

- an increased Gloucester wage bill of over \$3.1million per annum,
- saving some \$350,000 in welfare benefits from 20% of the new jobs being filled by staff currently on benefits,
- together with increased PAYG receipts of at least \$320,000 every year
- a substantial annual net increase in GST receipts
- a boost to local spending by the expansion of those companies that received grants by over \$1.1million every year
- increased local spending by new jobs creating a further \$690,000 every year

The preceding are in addition to the diverse multitude of benefits typically associated with community infrastructure improvements, sponsorship of sporting and community events and festivals - all of which ultimately benefit both resident and visitor alike.

Another incredibly valuable social outcome is the ability to leverage in-kind support from the resources sector through encouraging the engagement of independent external 3rd parties to assist with strategic community and business support initiatives. Advance Gloucester was pivotal in approaching and encouraging AGL to entertain such a position, which has ultimately been the catalyst for the development of :-

- the Bucketts Way Route Development Strategy in consultation with stakeholders & adjoining LGA's – resulting in \$8.4 million from NSW Government for 3 passing lanes south of Gloucester to Pacific Hwy with another \$8.4 million anticipated from the Federal Government
- the Bucketts Way / Thunderbolts Way Transport Corridor Strategy (initially submitted jointly between Walcha and MidCoast Councils for \$20 million worth of works) which is designed to extend regionally to Uralla and Inverell Councils in order to capture the full length of Thunderbolts Way.
- Gloucester / Scone Road Corridor Strategy – currently being developed between MidCoast and Upper Hunter Councils, State Forests and NPWS which will be used to seek funding to exploit further tourism and adventure opportunities.
- Assisted applications securing \$1 million from Federal Government to reinstate the Stroud Showground following devastating April 2015 flood event
- Assisted funding application to secure approx..\$40K for Gloucester Sports Ground
- Assisted funding applications to secure Gloucester Showground Dairy Shed upgrade and recycling initiative – just over \$200K mark

This position has almost run its agreed course of two years, and clearly would not have eventuated if not for the existence of resource companies and their willingness to cooperate and become proactively involved in our community.

Advance Gloucester contends that these extensive immediate and ongoing social benefits will continue to strengthen our region for decades to come, and substantially offset any localised impositions that some contend, will have catastrophic and irreversible consequences for either themselves personally or our regional image in total.

GRL are acutely aware of the outcomes that the Gloucester community has been able to achieve by working collaboratively with resource companies and other stakeholders to date, and we feel they are keen to become involved in order to continue this momentum going forward.

In essence, we are essentially engaging with resource companies as a community resource, in order to leverage further opportunity and social benefit outside of their core business.

5. Not in Public Interest

While it is acknowledged that there will inevitably be localised impacts and impositions as the result of this proposal, we feel that they are nowhere near significant enough to fully justify in their own right, the refusal of this project to proceed.

Our region has endured many challenges over its evolution, experiencing many unpalatable impositions that have ultimately effected far more, in a far bigger way – yet we have continued to regroup, reassess and reinvent ourselves time and time again.

Investment that can substantially stimulate a community and economy the size of ours very rarely comes along, so we trust that you will carefully consider the additional information and insights relating to our region that we have provided, before determining the outcome.

Again, Advance Gloucester appreciates the opportunity to address you as part of this process and thanks you for your valuable time and attention.

Rod Williams – Deputy Chair

Advance Gloucester - attachments

1 - Example of Groundswell paid advertising

Pages 1 to 4 prior to release of amended GRL Rocky Hill EIS illustrate the level of emotive misinformation including the illusion of a proposed Stage 2 closer to town. For anyone basing opinion on Groundswells information, there is the risk that it will be based solely on this information.

2 – Example of emotive and exaggerated claims being circulated by J – TAG, albeit relating to AGL's Gloucester Gas Project.

The relevance of this is that it was provided by the driver to a fare-paying passenger during a taxi journey in Newcastle. This is the level of penetration that opposing groups will go to in order to influence public opinion. Ironically, the passenger was the son of a former President of the Gloucester Chamber



Duralie Coal Mine CCC Update

The Duralie Community Consultative Committee (CCC) was established in 2003 and operates under the guidance of the NSW Department of Planning & Environment. Meetings are held quarterly and provide a forum for open discussion between the community, Council, the Company and other stakeholders on issues relating to the mine's operations, environmental performance and community engagement.

In response to a request by the CCC, the May 2016 CCC meeting focused on rehabilitation planning and the security deposit held by the State Government as part of mining approval. Yancoal also briefed the CCC on strategies for post-mining land use planning of the Duralie Coal Mine on Yancoal owned properties. Yancoal's Regional General Manager Open Cut Operations advised the CCC the company is committed to delivering rehabilitation which meets the requirements of the projects approval and also provides a final land use which is of value to both the community and Yancoal. Updates will continue to be provided through the Duralie CCC.

The Committee noted that Duralie Coal, in conjunction with Gloucester RFS, is currently preparing for a hazard reduction burning program on 187ha of land located south-east of the mine site. The burns are planned to be undertaken during winter 2016.

The full minutes of the May 2016 CCC meeting are available at www.duraliecoal.com.au under "Environment" then "Community Consultative Committee" then "Meeting Minutes". For further information on issues raised in the CCC, please call the Duralie Coal community information line on 1300 658 239 or alternatively you may contact one of the Duralie Coal CCC Members directly via contact details for members available via www.duraliecoal.com.au under "Environment" then "Community Consultative Committee".

Postal: Duralie Cdc, C/O Po Box 168 Gloucester NSW 2422
WEBSITE: www.duraliecoal.com.au
Phone: +61 2 4999 5100

PRE EIS

THE ROCKY HILL GOAL MINE IS BACK

"WE WILL MINE AS CLOSE TO GLOUCESTER AS PERMITTED"
Keith Ross CEO Gloucester Resources Limited

Don't be fooled by GRL
THE MINE IS STILL TOO CLOSE
THE IMPACTS ARE STILL TOO GREAT...AND THEY AFFECT YOU
Say "NO" again

A revised Environmental Impact Statement will be...

80%
of Gloucester residents say "NO"

PRE FES

LIFE | COMMUNITY NEWS



The NDIS rollout is here!

- BWNG Inc has been providing support to people with a disability in Gloucester, Stroud and the surrounding villages since 1989.
- BWNG is part of your local community, employing local people
- We are a registered NDIS provider.
- We provide a range of services including but not limited to:
 - Assisting with personal activities,
 - Developing daily living and life skills
 - Participation in community, social and civic activities.
- BWNG is committed to supporting you to achieve your vision of a good life

WE GET IT. WE GET YOU. AND WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE.

Call Us 65558 2454
88 King St, Gloucester

#ndisready

TA1885256

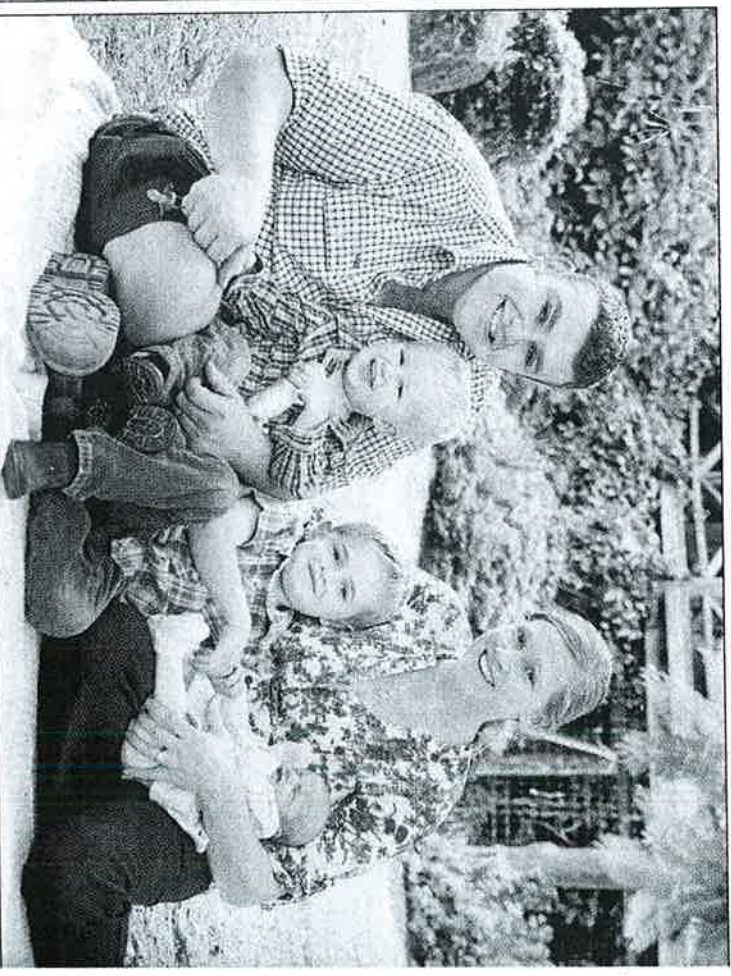


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IT'S A GIRL: Proud parents, Ken and Rebecca Trappel with their sons Lachlan and Joe, celebrating the arrival of their new baby sister Sophie Jean.

A daughter for the Trappels

KEN and **Rebecca Trappel** of **Monkerai** are proud to announce the arrival of their first beautiful daughter, **Sophie Jean**, born **March 30** at **Gloucester Hospital** weighing just under six pounds (2.7 kilograms). **Sophie** is a little sister to **Lachlan** and **Joe**. Proud grandparents are **Gordon** and **Dianne Trappel**

ULYSSES DONATION
Jade Spencer raises \$349 through selling raffle tickets in a Mother's Day draw, during the recent Gloucester Motorcycle Muster.

The raffle was organised by **Jade's** mum, **Pat Spencer** on behalf of the Gloucester branch of the **Ulysses Club**. **Jade's** dad **Wally** is a past

Show 'n' Shine at the same motorcycle muster and then added the money to round the donation up to \$400. It was handed over to the \$400 donation to **Brian Clarke**, Westpac Rescue Helicopter support group president.

Current **Ulysses** branch president, **Phil Masten**, congratulated **Brian** on the support.

DRE EIS

glooucesteradvocate

Are there impacts after plugging?

QUESTIONS about the long term environmental impact of the decommissioned gas wells were asked during a meeting held with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the Division of Resources and Energy (DRE), AGL and the Gloucester Community Consultative Committee.

The Gloucester Advocate asked the EPA questions following the meeting. What is the lifespan of the plugging materials?

A spokesperson for the EPA said, "Once a well has been satisfactorily decommissioned, it's deemed very low risk of failure. DRE has set rigorous standards in-

cluding the Code of Practice for Well Integrity that cover requirements for plugging and abandoning wells. "The agencies can inspect any well to verify its integrity should there be evidence of diminishing well integrity through, for example, a major seismic event or change of land use."

What's the potential for sulphur-reducing bacteria to corrode the materials?

"Once a gas well has been effectively plugged the environment is isolated, preventing an infestation of bacterial growth that could corrode materials."

Is there a threat of future venting of methane?

"Throughout decommissioning companies must check for methane emissions and report to government. The EPA and DRE undertake a technical review before a well is considered decommissioned - if we had any concerns we would require further testing."

What's EPA's role in monitoring of the site? "Decommissioning complete until the company is satisfied that the environment is protected. The EPA oversees a technical review before a well is considered decommissioned - if we had any concerns we would require further testing."

WEATHER

TODAY



Showers
Min: 13°C Max: 20°C

TOMORROW

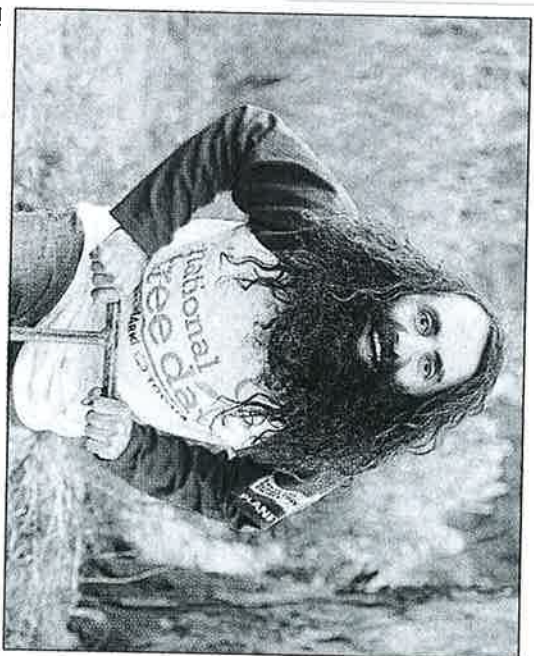


Clearing showers
Min: 13°C Max: 24°C

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National Tree Day is coming to town



The event has a host of ambassadors like Costa Georgiadis. For more information about Gloucester event visit treeaday.planetark.org/site/10012385

PLANET Ark's National Tree Day is coming to Gloucester on Sunday July 31 at Gloucester Park from 10am to noon, organised by the Gloucester Environment Group.

The tree day activity is aimed at informing residents of the riverbank regeneration work and to invite them to join in.

The group meet once or twice a month to weed, plant and keep tidy several areas of the riverbank within Gloucester and King George V Memorial parks.

This event is a good way of making the activities of the group more widely known in

the community and encourage others to take part. Tools and equipment for planting will be provided.

It's the 21st year of the Planet Ark's National Tree Day and Australians have helped plant more than 23 million trees.

Planet Ark's latest research shows spending time in nature has medically and scientifically beneficial effects that enable people to grow healthier, happier, brighter, calmer and closer. There's no better way to embrace these benefits than by taking part on the day.

- ANNE KEEN

SCHOOL GRAFFITIE

POLICE are asking for community's help after Gloucester High School was graffitied over the school holidays. A number of messages and slogans were written on the basketball court, entry to the schools hall and on various walls throughout the school. Although not offensive in their wordings, the offence, malicious damage was committed. Police believe the damaged may have occurred between mid July 11 and 8am July 1

99E E1S



Funds for creative community activities

ARTS Mid North Coast is looking for innovative and great projects that will thrill our community.

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund (RAF) supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote Australia. RAF is designed to benefit regional and remote arts

WEATHER

TODAY
Cloudy
Min: 2°C Max: 7°C

TOMORROW
Sunny
Min: 0°C Max: 10°C

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Gloucester Advocate

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practitioners, arts workers, audiences and communities. Objectives of the fund are to support and promote participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture in regional and remote Australia. This is done by encouraging and supporting sustainable economic, social and cultural development

in regional communities; by developing partnerships and networks which leverage financial and/or in-kind support for specific projects and encourage ongoing collaboration; by developing audiences and broadening community engagement with the arts; and by increasing employment and professional

development opportunities for, and raise the profile of, regional and remote artists. The RAF will only fund arts or cultural heritage projects directed at achieving the objectives of the program. The project can include: circus, crafts and textiles, cross art form, dance, digital media, film, literature, mu-

sic, photography, puppetry, theatre or visual arts. Small Regional Festival Support is a new category. RAF applications will only be accepted through the Regional Arts Australia secure online grants system, SmartGrants. You can discuss your project with Kevin Williams, executive director

of Arts Mid North Coast, or 0427 256 719. Application close 3pm on Monday August 8 for projects commencing after January 1, 2017 completed by December 31, 2017. For more information <http://artsmid-northcoast.com/showcase/regional-arts-fund-raf-community-grants/>

A patchwork of colour on display



A DISPLAY OF COLOUR: Audrey Gerard is one of the talented women who have made the beautiful quilts on display at the Gloucester Gallery.

STUNNING patterns and intricate designs are currently on show at the Gloucester Gallery.

An exhibition of patchwork quilts by the Gloucester Patchwork Group will be running until Sunday August 7.

A range of classical and traditional quilting techniques are on show alongside contemporary choices of colour and style.

Pure dedication is evident in the attention given to meticulous detail in creating these textile works of art. This exhibition follows two previously held in the gallery in

2010 and 2014. Founded in 1996, the Gloucester Patchwork Group is an active community

group of women who as well as creating individual work, collectively create community quilts for charities, hospitals or for victims of bushfires, floods and other disasters.

The group has held a number of quilt shows at the Barrington Hall as well as displays at Gloucester Garden Rambles. If you enjoy sewing, creating patchwork quilts and helping in the community, new members are always welcome.

GILLESPIE PORTFOLIO

LYNE MP Dr David Gillespie has been announced as Assistant Minister for Rural Health after Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull unveiled his new-look ministry. "As most people would be aware I have a long history working in medicine and health administration, and I look forward to using my extensive background and knowledge in the health sector to support the government's policy agenda," Dr Gillespie said. He thanked the people of Lyne for their strong support.

Silence is consent

If you think that the proposed *new coal mine at Rocky Hill*:

- is just too close to town
- has health and environment risks
- will drive out new residents and other industries
- is another mine we don't need which sends its profits overseas

then you need to speak up now!

Say what you think in your words, you can write a little or a lot. Your name need not be published.

To have your say write to the Department of Planning by October 14.

- 1) Put in a submission online - majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/on-exhibition
- 2) Get help writing a letter - groundswellgloucester.com
- 3) More information and help - Tuesday September 27, 6:30pm Soldiers Club, Denison Street

Understand the mine project

ROCKY E PROJECT

Gloucester has Gloucester Resource-(GRL) and Yan-plain the proposed 1 Mine Project to



Brian Clifford says everyone is welcome to visit Rocky Hill information centre on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings at 33 Church Street.

...atives will pres-
...mended Environ-
... Impact Statement
... the group's meeting
... day night (Sep-
...) starting at 7.30pm
...ster Bowling Club,
... chief operating of-
... rian Clifford, will
... video with an over-
... the project outlining
... fificant changes from
... ginal proposal and
... information about
... nly asked questions.
... esentatives from Yan-
... so will be available at
... eeting, as the amended
... al involves the Strat-
... ine site receiving, pro-
... g and dispatching coal
... ct for GRL.

... question and answer
... n will be held after the
... ation.
... Gloucester vice
... dent, Rod Williams said

they have organised the ses-
... sion to provide the commu-
... nity with an opportunity to
... learn more about the project.
... "The night is not about
... supporting or opposing,
... agreeing or disagreeing with
... the proposal, but purely to
... provide an informative op-
... portunity for people to come,

... have direct access to the pro-
... ponents and form their own
... opinions," he said.
... The EIS is currently on
... public exhibition with sub-
... missions, for or against the
... project, due to the NSW
... Department of Planning and
... Environment by October 14.
... - ANNE KEEN



HAVING A CHAT: Around 100 people attended the evening held in Bakers Creek. It was a chance for the visitors to meet some of the locals. Picture: Supplied

Country hospitality, music and tucker

GLOUCESTER played host
to some potential new
residents during the Tree
Change Showcase Weekend
held from Friday, September
16 to Sunday, September 19.
The Destination Gloucester
ter team organised a jammed
packed weekend itinerary
for the guests to experience
what the area has to offer.

a range of members from the
local business community.
That evening, visitors and
locals attended a Country
Hospitality and Tucker
(CHAT), involving a spit
roast and entertainment by
The Grasscutters, with guest
speakers, Dr Michelle Hogg
from Gloucester Medical
Centre and Pat Cavanagh,
Gloucester High School
principal.

Sydney attended the event
after having been invited
during the Regional Liv-
ing Expo in August, where
Gloucester had an informa-
tion booth.
Gary Ferris from Destina-
tion Gloucester said without
local support the event would
not have been possible.

The visitors could choose
which events they wanted
to attend, including visits
to farms, a winery and the
Gloucester Gallery. An in-
formation seminar was held
on Saturday afternoon with

The evening raising \$370
for the Gloucester Cancer
Support Group.
Fifty people from the Cen-
tral Coast, Newcastle and

"The group would like to
thank the many volunteers,
business, clubs and service
groups who so generously
supported the Region-
al Living Expo and Tree
Change Weekend."
- ANNE KEEN

Distributed by Newcastle Taxi

HOW WILL CSG MINING AFFECT GLOUCESTER?

- CSG mining will industrialise and pollute the Gloucester Valley which will damage and put severe stress on tourism and agribusiness. Gloucester's fertile valley will be lost to industrial facilities and unsightly infrastructure with heavy trucks and noise disruption 24/7 from processing plants, compressor stations, pumps and waste treatment facility.
- The fact that Gloucester has such complex geology and hydrogeology and that AGL's Gas Project is in a floodplain means that CSG mining is completely unsuitable to this area as it imposes too many unacceptable risks.
- Bioregional assessments prove that Gloucester barely gets enough rainfall to meet current demands. Millions of litres of our fresh drinkable water will be wasted in the process of hydraulic fracturing. For every litre AGL extracts, our water reserves and water security are being compromised.
<http://aids.bioregionaldevelopment.gov.au/product/NSR-GLO-11>
- Farmers near Tara have not only reported contamination of bores and the ability to set them alight, but also severe drops in their ground water levels and that stock animals have been dropping dead.
- Farmers may be found liable if their meat or produce are found to be contaminated by CSG pollutants, whether the gas wells are on their property or neighbouring properties.
<http://www.biodiversity.com.au/content/uploads/2014/05/CSG-2012emissions-2013.pdf>
- AGL have no specific plan in place for getting rid of the heavy metals and toxic residues that still remain in the water after treatment such as cyanide, mercury, copper, lead and aluminium. These injurious chemicals could potentially contaminate our catchments and rivers.



AFTER

Children and babies are most vulnerable to this unsafe industry. As concerned parents and citizens of Gloucester we want to protect our children's futures, and preserve our communities health, water, air and farmlands. You have the power to help stop this. The AGL board hasn't yet made a decision on whether to fund the gasfield, but time is running out. We urge you to take action and the simplest ways you can help are to:

- Switch energy providers from pro-CSG retailers such as AGL, Energy Australia and Origin. This will send a clear message that Australians will only support companies that invest in renewable sustainable energies. PowerShop has been voted the greenest energy retailer in Australia. For further information or to make the switch today contact PowerShop on 1800658433 or visit www.powershop.com.au.
- Many superannuation funds and banks are using your investments to fund CSG projects. Find out today at www.facktondivest.com if your bank or super fund is using your money to fund CSG projects and make the switch to a more responsible investor.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THESE ISSUES?

- Health
- Pollution
- Water security
- Property values
- Employment
- The industrialisation of our region

NSW does not have a gas shortage. 85% of Australia's gas has been earmarked for export. The Government and AGL are gambling with our futures and nothing can undo the damage once it has been done. Our community, our health, our environment and our livelihoods are being sacrificed for corporate profits. All over Australia like-minded people wanting healthier and more sustainable futures are joining together in local groups that form larger co-ordinated networks so that as a nation we can demand that this dangerous industry be banned. Will you help?

For further information or to find out what else you can do please follow us on Facebook

Join Take Action Gloucester



or email: j-tag-@hotmail.com



BEFORE

PHOTO: ERIK STAMM

PLEASE DON'T LET ANY MORE ABOUT UNCONVENTIONAL GAS

- The documented impacts of coal seam gas (CSG) mining are so devastating that many countries, states and councils around the world have now banned it.
- CSG causes irreversible damage to the lifestyle, health and financial well being of every local community it touches.
- Farming and gas mining cannot co-exist. It pollutes agricultural land, releases poisonous gases and fumes into the air, has damaged aquifers, caused water levels in rivers and bores to drop, and has caused contamination of water supplies with heavy metals and toxic hydrocarbons.
- The extraction of CSG is a very invasive and destructive form of mining. Residents living in and near gasfields are exposed to toxic emissions. The Government has fooled the public by not funding adequate health studies and has instead allowed mining companies to be self-regulated and relies on industry-supplied data. Doctors worldwide agree that not enough is known about the short and long term health damage.
- CSG is comprised of 95% methane and a mixture of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are known carcinogens. Some of these gases are neurotoxins and exposure to them can cause irreversible health damage and systemic poisoning so the potential risks to public health could be much greater than coal mining.
- CSG companies are unable to control the amount of hazardous gas emissions that occur. High concentrations of fugitive emissions escape into the atmosphere through unintentional leaks, the deliberate venting of raw gas and the regular flaring of wells.
- A 2014 CSIRO report on 43 wells in Australia revealed 100% of the active gas wells leaked. CSIRO, Field measurement of Fugitive Emissions from Equipment and Well Closures in Australian Coal Seam Gas Production Facilities.
- NASA climatologists estimate over a 20 year timeframe that CSG emission are between 79 and 105 times worse for climate change than carbon dioxide generated from burning coal. <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/324/5953/716>

The background image is the Gasfields at

Deasant Farms Texas USA

COAL MINING POSES SIGNIFICANT HEALTH RISKS

REPORTED SYMPTOMS OF LIVING IN A GASFIELD:

- Skin irritations & rashes
- Eye & throat irritations
- Nose bleeds
- Sleep disturbances
- Insomnia
- Difficulty concentrating
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Difficulty breathing
- Chest tightness
- Coughing
- Dizziness
- Seizures
- Metallic taste
- Nausea & Vomiting
- Severe headaches
- Abdominal pain
- Weakness
- Numbness
- Severe fatigue
- Muscle pains & Spasms
- Paraesthesia
- Leukaemia & Cancers
- Miscarriages
- Birth defects
- Brain damage
- Autism
- ADHD

KIDS IN TARA

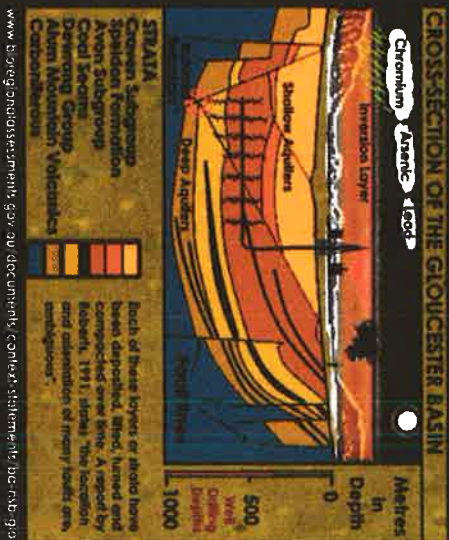


A study conducted by Dr Gerdyn McCarron on Tara, QLD residents shows that 58% of families experienced adverse health impacts. Many expressed that their lives had become "a living nightmare" and felt helpless in the face of their children's ill health and their inability to protect them.

Gerdyn McCarron (2013) Symptomatology of Gas Fields and their: www.youthis.com/industry/44222_2008

The impacts were so severe that within two years 45% of those originally surveyed had moved away however most found themselves financially trapped, unable to sell their polluted and devalued properties.

The diagram below illustrates how Gloucester's morning inversion layer could trap emissions and increase the severity of pollution levels in the valley. These volatile gases may also come back down as acid rain and end up in our rainwater tanks, dams and pastures. By drilling through fault lines the connectivity between springs, rivers and aquifers is likely to be irrevocably compromised.



Rashes and nosebleeds left are common complaints amongst Tara residents.

17 cows die within an hour of drinking spill flow - Right back water in Louisiana

- Agriculture - employs over 300
- Tourism - employs 240
- Health Sector - employs 230
- Retail Trade - employs 200
- Construction - employs 170



Gloucester may need jobs but CSG is not the solution.

When analysing local Government and ABS employment statistics in our region the major industries that generate local employment are

By comparing these figures with coal mining which employs 93 people and considering that AGL are offering very few jobs to locals this illustrates how the Gas Project is jeopardising 80% or more of the job security of other traditional industries, as well as the long term economic sustainability of the district because no other industries or communities can solely co-exist with CSG mining

to put this in context residents in Tara are presently reporting that there are around 400 vacant homes and that many local businesses have been forced to close. Will you let this happen to Gloucester?

<http://www.exchange.com/news/gloucester-acute-economic-problem/>

RED SKY AT NIGHT John Lewis photo from the house in Tara of being 20KMS away

