

Hi everyone I think most people know me for those who don't I'm Bill Williams. I am a 4th Generation dairy farmer at Startford. My farm was bought off the AA company in the late 1800's by my Great grandfather. It is the closest family owned dairy farm to the Strtatford mine. Agriculture and mining has co-existed in the Gloucester region for 22years and happily still does today. Having lived on the Avon River for some 50 years I have a good idea what flow it has it usually has a six months of the year with no flow at all. So the effect on the Manning catchment is virtually non-existent.

Tourism & mining have co-existed for twenty odd years as well in fact tourism figures show the growth to be as much as 50 million dollars while there has been a mine already near Gloucester. People drive past & didn't know it was there.

The co-existence with GRL & speldon Dairy farm being one of the largest in the district opens up immediate market for people all over the world to come and see how mining and agriculture can co-exist using the latest technology and modelling. Figures show that Muswellbrook has 43,000 visitors per year and singleton 30,000 visitors per year from business tourism and Gloucester has none. This is where the money is camping and clamping in the mountains won't help Gloucester grow. The project is not to close to Gloucester I agree mines do make a bit of noise, but so do the 5,500 trains per year that go on the edge of town 365 days a year with usually 3 or 4 locomotives on the front.

The dept. says the mine poses unacceptable visual impacts. Again I would like to point out we already have a mine in our backyard. How can a barrier made from soil, grasses, trees and shrubs within landscape be intrusive?

Gloucester needs industry and employment so it can prosper once again it CAN'T survive on coffee shops & cafes it needs this mine to be approved so it can be a thriving town once again. Our biggest export in Gloucester is our children once they leave school they have to leave town to find employment, hopefully this would be reduced. The number of classes in year 7 this year was only 3 the lowest on record. I urge the PAC to recommend approval of the Rocky Hill project as this town needs industry so it can help other businesses grow.

This project needs to get approved.

I ask you how many people sitting in this hall have actually taken time to go out to the mine site and physically see with their own eyes where it is and its proximity to the town

Thank you for your time and opportunity to speak here today