

PAC Meeting – Gloucester 14/11/17

My name is Peta Tynan, Gloucester rate payer 18 years & permanent resident 13 years, I have run a grazing enterprise and been employed in town but am now retired.

I am opposed to the development of Rocky Hill Mine. + STRARFORD EXTENSION

Having read the Assessment Report, I wanted to make a brief comment regarding some aspects of employment in Gloucester.

All residents would like to see jobs and prosperity for the town. I read in the Report that jobs may be available for locals in the 12 month set up period of the mine and following this, 45 – 100 jobs in total would be made available for operating the mine going forward. The prediction stated is that although not many of these operational jobs would necessarily go to local residents, up to 50 miners may possibly relocate to Gloucester to take up those positions.

The Social Impact Assessment prepared in 2016 and contained within the Report gives information about the demographic of the area, how people are currently employed and the change in population for the past 5 years. How meaningful are these numbers when it is impossible to estimate the effect that the threat of CSG wells and open cut mining close to town has had on our population and opportunities over the last not only 5 but 10 years while the town has been holding it's collective breath?

Some feel that the very survival of Gloucester depends on a large single opportunity such as a mine. However job security in every industry has changed greatly and the mining industry is perhaps the most insecure of all affected as it will be by automation and the phasing out of fossil fuels.

It has been accepted in the Report that the close proximity to town of the proposed coal mine would likely deter anyone not associated with the mine from relocating here. I therefore have the fear that we will have **burnt our bridges** in terms of attracting a diversity of enterprises, large or small, which would more ably provide a range of jobs.

Some also scoff at the usefulness of retirees, but I wonder if the home maintenance people, lawn mowers, car servicers, hairdressers etc. etc. feel that way? Retirees are valuable consumers and they also contribute greatly to the amenity of the town in volunteer hours.

Last but not least is the probable negative impact on tourism jobs should Gloucester become a mining town. There is no need for me to elaborate on what is on offer here for visitors; just a glance out the window would suffice. Going forward, there will only be increasing numbers of tourist dollars on offer in towns like ours.

In summary, I am of the opinion that many more jobs will be available without a mine than with a mine.

Thank you for the opportunity and I hope that you will accept the recommendation of the Department of Planning and Environment and reject the Rocky Hill Mine. ~ STRATFORD EXTENSION,