

Media Release

16 May 2017

GLOUCESTER RESIDENTS ANGRY ABOUT ROCKY HILL COAL MINE PROPOSAL

Several members of the Gloucester Community will tomorrow (17 May) be meeting with representatives of the NSW Government Planning Department to express the fact that they are angry, exhausted and distressed by the flawed proposal to build an open cut coal mine on the doorstep of beautiful Gloucester.

Groundswell Chair Julie Lyford says:

“This proposal, to build a dirty 220m deep coal mine within about 1 kilometre of family homes and within just a few kilometres of schools and hospitals should be rejected. If it was built, Gloucester residents would be subjected to serious physical and psychological health risks from noise and dust and blasting. It will entail the destruction of at least 9 aboriginal sites and pose great threats to Gloucester tourist industry which depends upon Gloucester’s clean green image.

This proposal has been rejected by Mid Coast Council and is strongly opposed by the overwhelming majority of Gloucester residents.

There are well documented harms caused by open cut coal mines and any parliamentarian or government official involved in any approval will be held to account by this community. Can you imagine the disaster to this community if there was an uncontrollable mine fire such as happened at the Hazelwood mine in Victoria?

If this company is silly enough to try and build this mine it can expect huge disruption and direct action. How many of our peaceful law abiding citizens will face 7 years jail to stop this vandalism? The community is ready to use peaceful direct action to fight this flawed proposal so it never sees the light of day.”

The Rocky Hill exploration licence was granted by the convicted and corrupt minister Ian Macdonald. The present minister Don Harwin has been asked to investigate the circumstances of this licence being issued. Presently no action has been taken.

Many officials, such as the Hon Bob Baldwin, Adam Searle MP, Dr David Gillespie MHR, John Turner (Mid Coast Council), George Souris and Gloucester Chamber former president Stewart Caruthers have said that this mine is too close to town. However, Gloucester’s local member Michael Johnsen has had nothing to say. Despite having an obligation to support this community, he has remained silent. Well Gloucester residents will not stay silent and do nothing.