

Group J Response

The Country Labor team is opposed to all mining in water catchment areas, including the proposed expansion of the Rocky Hill Coal mine near Gloucester.

We believe that the proposed mine expansion will take it far too close to the township of Gloucester and that this will have negative impacts on Gloucester residents and businesses, including – exposure to coal dust and consequential adverse impacts on health; exposure to noise pollution; destruction of a local waterway; reduction in property values; and loss of amenity.

Whilst a GTCC Councillor, Dr David Keegan initiated the GTCC objection to CSG extraction in the Gloucester Valley and as Chair of the Estuary and coastline Committee, he pushed for the Committee

to expand its Terms of Reference to include the Manning Catchment, thereby addressing concerns of the effects of CSG mining on the Avon floodplain, and the Manning Catchment (the source of the Taree and Great Lakes water supply).

Claire Pontin was a very active participant in the anti-CSG activities in the Gloucester valley, is a committee member of MCWAG, a member of Groundswell Gloucester and supports their campaigns against the expansion of the mine. She has also personally written to several NSW Ministers seeking the revocation of the Rocky Hill coal mine licences.

We believe that coal mining needs to cease but are cognizant of the likely impact on coal mining jobs. It is important, therefore that any moves to reduce coal extraction need to be supported by projects to expand other industries such as tourism and renewable energy production and storage. We see these as locally viable alternatives to coal mining in the Avon valley.