

RESPONSES FROM CANDIDATES Re: Rocky Hill

Group A

You would know by now my (and therefore my team) view on the matter as completely in line with Midcoast Council, that is total opposition. All of the LRC members were afforded the opportunity to discuss the matter before John Turner made his decision and what he had to say reflected our unanimous view. Keep up the good work.

All the best Len

Group B

I'm totally against the Rocky Hill mine. My main concern is its location.

Regards Brad

Group D

The Rocky Hill Coal Mine is an important issue for the whole of the MidCoast Council electorate. As you have previously stated we have had active advocacy for Gloucester regarding CSG and AGL. The Rocky Hill Coal Mine will have negative implications in our area and consequently Group D does not support this project.

Regards,

Kerry Anderson on behalf of Group D

Group G

I, James Hooke, on behalf of Bell Team thank you for your question regarding the Rocky Hill Mine and reply as follows:

We oppose the proposed Rocky Hill Mine. We support previous council resolutions opposing the mine on the grounds of environmental matters and proximity to homes. We especially oppose the proposed mine on health grounds considering its relative closeness to schools, a hospital and the Gloucester population.

Yours faithfully,
James Hooke
for Bell Team

Group H

As a former Deputy mayor of Greater Taree City Council Chairman of Midcoast Water and member of MidCoast Council's Local representative Committee I have been in a position to speak long and loud against not only this but also the CSG issue ably supported by Frank Hook and Alled Hoggett, unlike Manning Alliance Groundswell has had its agenda firmly placed on resolving both these issues, the thing that has undermined your efforts is the self centred its all about us Manning Alliance and that is again at the fore with him trumpeting he stopped the CSG, whilst ever I am in a position To do so I will put my every effort behind Groundswell and the Gloucester community. Please keep me in the loop as I hope to be returned to council on 9 September.

I am sending this from my phone I am on the road at the moment. Hence the probability that this note may seem a little disjointed

Kindest Regards

David West

Group I

I refer to your letter regarding candidate position on Rocky Hill. As you would be aware I voted against Rocky Hill as a councilor when I was an elected member of Gloucester Shire Council. I also wrote my own personal submission against Rocky Hill last year when the EIS was amended.

Regards

Katheryn Smith

Group J

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.

Group K

The answer to your question is that at Great Lakes Council we voted against Coal seam Gas before we were amalgamated. And while I was Chair of the Local Representative Committee, we all voted against the Rocky Hill Coal Mine. And after that the matter went up to a Council Meeting where even the Administrator spoke against it also.

Sincerely Jan McWilliams