

WILL YOU ACCEPT THE KNOWN HARMS AND RISKS OF THE ROCKY HILL COAL MINE ON GLOUCESTER'S DOORSTEP?

**Blasting - Mining - Crushing - Noise - Dust
6 days a Week**

**Children and the Elderly Have Major Health Risks
Discharge Risks for Manning River Water Users**

**THESE PUBLIC FIGURES HAVE STATED IT WILL
BE TOO CLOSE TO THE TOWN**

John Turner Administrator MidCoast Council and former Nationals member for Myall Lake
(Gloucester Advocate)

Dr David Gillespie MP Nationals member for Lyne and Assistant Minister for Health
(Meet the Candidates 2016)

George Souris AM former Nationals member for Upper Hunter (State Hansard)

Bob Baldwin former Liberal member for Paterson (Federal Hansard)

Adam Searle MLC Labor Shadow Minister for Industry Resources and Energy
(Email to Groundswell Gloucester)

Jeremy Buckingham MLC Greens Spokesman for Mining (State Hansard)

Gloucester Shire Council - MidCoast Council - Doctors for the Environment
All submissions are available on the Department of Planning website

Urgent Public Meeting

Thursday 13 July 6.30pm

Gloucester Soldiers Club 32 Denison Street

**Tell the Government Our Families Matter
and We Demand a Healthy Future**

Groundswell Gloucester Inc.
PO Box 380 Gloucester NSW 2422 www.groundswellgloucester.com

Dr Garry Lyford (GP) and Dr John Van Der Kallen (Physician)

Doctors for the Environment Australia

Newcastle Herald – October 4th, 2016

".... It is inconceivable that an open cut mine that aims to extract 21 million tonnes of coal is planned for these parts, and will be within two kilometres of residential areas – places where people live and bring up families.

Living near open cut coalmines can be detrimental to health. Studies have shown effects including an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, respiratory illnesses such as asthma, high blood pressure, kidney disease and strokes. For children there can be an increased risk of asthma, high lead levels and school absences....

It is not only the local population which could be at increased health risk. The coal will be transported 9.2 kilometres by truck to the Stratford Mining Complex and loaded onto trains which will travel to Newcastle where the coal will be loaded onto ships for export. We believe anyone living along this route will have an increased risk of disease....

The effects of blasting (up to four blasts per week) and the subsequent risk of toxic blast plumes; noise and light pollution; having "unavoidable impact" on nine Aboriginal heritage sites; and the risk of fires." These are major concerns.

"The Rocky Hill open cut coalmine is in a relatively flat fertile agricultural area on the banks of the Avon River and Waukivory creek, and will be 220 metres deep and 142 hectares in size. The whole complex will be 497 hectares in size.

... How can an open cut mine of that size not affect water flow and how can it be guaranteed that the water levels will recover? Who will be held accountable if they do not?

The Rocky Hill mine is a potential health and environmental disaster and there is no need for it. The cost benefit analysis does not take into account the ongoing health and environmental impacts.

Air pollution is however of most concern where substantial numbers of people are exposed to it. This is a blatant disregard for the wellbeing and health of the local population. It is highly concerning that the proponents for this submission would disregard the health of the local population."

Submission statements to NSW Department of Planning

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) - Risk of excessive Noise

"If approved many residents and visitors will experience a changed noise environment (hearing mining noise for the first time)"

"The Gloucester valley experiences weather conditions like temperature inversions and southerly breezes reasonably regularly. Those conditions will increase noise from the mine within Gloucester and its small rural-residential estates..."

MidCoast Water - Discharge into local waterways

"We have concerns with the water management strategy developed for the amended Rocky Hill mine project. The adopted strategy relies too heavily on discharges into local waterways. In addition EIS makes misleading statements around the discharges."

Environmental Justice Australia - Reckless Disregard for Public Safety

"The movement of blast plumes is unpredictable Open cut coal mines are not generally proposed let alone approved, so close to residential areas in the developed world."

Hunter New England Local Health District - Air Quality Health- Pollution Risks

"As the incremental impact of PM2.5 relates to changes in health risk, it is of concern for a community with relatively good air quality where a development is proposed."

Gloucester residents met NSW Department of Health officials in 2014 regarding serious, detrimental health issues threatening the Gloucester community from the proposed Rocky Hill coal mine.

We were informed that our families and community do not fit the NSW Government criteria to warrant a health risk assessment. This is a disgrace.

**The NSW Government will be held responsible for inflicting the known harms
and risks of the destructive Rocky Hill coal mine on Gloucester**

If this 220m deep open-cut disaster is approved - they are culpable