

Points for submissions

Ten years of uncertainty

GRL have held the Gloucester community in limbo for ten years. They were granted the three exploration licences in 2006. It is now 2016 and the community still does not know if there will be a coal mine.

Foreign owned

GRL is 81% foreign owned.

Closely Settled

Gloucester is the most closely settled area to entertain an open cut coal mine proposal.

Closely Settled

Nearly 300 people live within 3km. 2000 people live within 5km. 3500 people live within 7km. of the proposed coal mine.

Air Pollution

The enclosed valley retards dispersion of air pollution. Air pollution is the largest single environmental health risk and a leading cause of disease and death globally affecting the respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

Particulates (dust)

Mining including blasting creates both particulates and gases, which impair our health in many ways. There is no evidence of a minimum threshold for particulates where adverse effects don't occur.

Livestock

It is known the endocrine disrupting chemicals of the CSG industry cause a range of problems for cattle in addition to the carcinogens, heavy metals and organic compounds in mining. Some of which are carcinogenic and neurotoxic. They stay on the soil surface. There is no routine testing regime for mining pollutants in milk and beef originating from cattle properties anywhere in mining areas.

Noise

Noise is responsible for both auditory and non-auditory health damage. The National Noise Inventory measures high frequency noise, which is auditory - but not low frequency noise, which is non-auditory. The noise from mining machinery is low-frequency and causes stress and cognitive impairment. This will not be measured.

Health

The EIS uses the incorrect measurement of 1.5 people per square kilometre for health impact financial assessment. The correct figure is 50 people per square kilometre.

Blasting

Blasting is a cause of air pollution, structural damage to brick houses from vibrations, flyrock housing damage, excessive noise, impeding hearing and communication and exacerbating tinnitus. Blasting also causes anxiety.

Hours of Operation

There is no guarantee that the hours of operation will not increase to 24hours after the initial three years.

Water

The Rocky Hill mine is proposing to discharge run-off from areas disturbed by mining activities to the local waterways.

Salts

There will be approx. 32,800 tonnes of soil-contaminating salts and heavy metals trucked from the site during the life of the project. Groundwater seepage and surface runoff from this project will be more saline than the pre-mine situation.

Water

The water treatment plant will discharge water to areas outside the mine site and to the Avon River under some circumstances.

Overburden waste

There will be 8 million tonnes of coal crusher waste spread throughout the overburden at Gloucester and Stratford – to leach into the catchment.

'Amenity Barriers'

The EIS shows 'amenity barriers' in artificially modelled photomontages as green slopes just 6 months after commencing construction. In another section it states that it could take up to 7 years to get full vegetation cover. None of the photomontages depict grey/brown slopes which is the true reality and could be forever.

Final Landform

There is a shortfall of 75 million tonnes to complete the final landform of filling the voids and capping.

Financial Viability

The mine will need to expand to make it financially viable. The mine void of the Rocky Hill project ends at the farm fence but the coal continues for another 200 plus hectares north towards town. GRL have already explored in 'Stage two exploration area". Stage two includes Maslen's dairy.

Financial Loss

Detailed conservative calculations and methodology points at a significant LOSS over the life of this project. So expansion is inevitable.