

pac - Register to speak

From: "Sandy Higgins" <pac@pac.nsw.gov.au>
To: <pac@pac.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/02/2014 10:47 PM
Subject: Register to speak
CC: "BGSP Alliance"

I, Alexander Higgins, wish to register to be included in submissions on the day of a public hearing in Gloucester next Wednesday 19 February re Stratford Extension Project Approval.

I am unable to attend due to drought feeding of my livestock but submit the following input to the day.

I and my family of Susan, Isabelle, Edwina and Fiona, and my parents Jim and Margaret Higgins of oppose further extension of the Stratford Coal Mine.

- It will adversely impact local residents' air quality, visual amenity and right to the quiet enjoyment of one's lives.
- It will adversely impact local and regional road traffic infrastructure and use of it
- It will impact agricultural production with multiple adverse effects on water tables and permanently remove arable and grazing land from food production
- It will adversely impact on the natural environment with disruption to habitat, wildlife activity patterns and inter-related health of the natural ecosystem underpinning the region's agriculture
- It will change the culture of the town from attractiveness to visitors and retirees who appreciate the amenities and splendour of the local area to one of highly polluting industrialization followed by vacancy as the coal runs out and the mining activity moves away to the next town
- It will create a further "bubble" of fast economic growth that will prove over heated and unsustainable to future generations as the coal mining inevitably ends and the economics of the local businesses dry up
- It will act as a blocking effect on future agricultural developments that are needed to feed a hungry world and is part of Prime Minister Tony Abbott's blueprint for Agriculture as a section of revitalizing the Australian economy.

My wife, Susan, grew up in the Hunter Valley at Denman and has seen first hand the slow but sure destruction of its agriculture and the blight on the scenery of the coal mines. We know full well the future of Gloucester if the Stratford Coal Mine is extended. Please do not do this to our local community who do not want any more coal mines.

Alexander Higgins