

## Public Exhibition: Proposed Rocky Hill and Stratford Coal Mines

### Overview

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) placed an amended Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Rocky Hill Coal Mine, Gloucester, on public exhibition on Wednesday 17 August. At the same time, they also placed on exhibition a proposal to modify the Development Consent for the Stratford Mine, which is proposed to receive the extracted coal from Rocky Hill and crush it at the Stratford site before transporting to major centres.

By exhibiting these proposals, the DPE is inviting feedback from individuals, community groups and organisations, which can be made via a submission on their website by **Friday 14 October, 2016**. Visit [www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au)

### Where can I review the proposals?

1. On DPE's website: [www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au)  
Search "Rocky Hill" and "Stratford" to access the proposals
2. On our website: [www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/rockyhillproposal](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/rockyhillproposal)
3. At our Gloucester, Stroud, Taree and Forster Customer Service Centres – view the printed documents, or collect a USB containing the documents (limited quantity available on weekly loan).

### What is MidCoast Council's role in these proposals?

The two proposals are classed as "State Significant Developments" which means the DPE is the consent authority who will determine the outcome of these proposals.

Because the location of the proposed mines falls in the MidCoast Council LGA, our role is to assist our community in understanding and accessing the proposals, and the information they need to make an informed submission. This includes assisting the DPE with their community consultations, and ensuring people are aware of when and where they can attend.

### Will Council place a submission on the proposals?

Just like any interested party, we'll be making a submission using the process outlined on the DPE website. Our planning staff will undertake a merit-based assessment of the two proposals to help inform the content of our submission.

Once completed, our submission will be made available for you to view on our website at [www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/rockyhillproposal](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/rockyhillproposal)

### What is a merit-based assessment?

In simple terms, it's a process used by our planners that ensures all elements within any proposal are considered objectively, with a clear aim to identify its strengths and weaknesses, advantages and disadvantages, and pros and cons. The assessment also takes into consideration any relevant legislation that is applicable.

For the two proposals currently on exhibition, our planning team will be assisted by professionally qualified staff across other disciplines to conduct the assessment and prepare our submission.

### What can community members do?

We encourage everyone who has an interest in the Rocky Hill and Stratford Mine proposals to carefully review the proposals and make a submission by **Friday 14 October, 2016** at [www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au)

This may be done as an individual, a community group or an organisation.

### What do I have to include with my submission?

Whether you're making an online submission, uploading a written submission online, or posting a hard-copy, there are elements that **MUST** be included. The online form on the Dept. of Planning and Environment website will prompt you for some of these but not all. To ensure your submission is considered, please cross-check against the list below:

- The name of the project – Rocky Hill Coal Project (Application Number SSD-5156)  
Or Modification to Stratford Extension Project
- Your name and address
- Whether you want your name published or not\*
- A political donations disclosure statement (yes or no; if yes, providing details)
- Your submission which clearly states whether you support or oppose the project, and any evidence or reasoning that you feel will support your position.

\* Please note: By indicating that you do not want your name published, it will not be included in the list of submitters. However, if you include your name / details in the "body" of your submission, it will be published. If you wish to remain anonymous, make sure to exclude your personal information from your written submission.

### How can I find out more?

Check back on our website [www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/rockyhillproposal](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/rockyhillproposal) where we'll publish any new information that comes to hand, along with our submissions once they are completed.

**Submissions must be made by Friday 14 October, 2016 at**  
**[www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au)**