

## Rixs Creek Community Consultative Committee – Annual Report 2021

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	Rixs Creek Mine CCC	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	March 2020 to March 2021
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	Lisa Andrews	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	Chris Knight

### 1. Executive Summary

The Rixs Creek North and Rixs Creek South is located 5kms north of Singleton, 90 kms from the Port of Newcastle and has been owned and operated by Bloomfield in the Hunter Valley for more than 80 years. The mine produces both thermal coal and high quality, semi-soft coking coal, primarily for overseas customers, which is railed to the Port of Newcastle and loaded onto ships.

The site includes a rail loop and two coal handling and preparation plants.

A Community Consultative Committee (CCC) was established in 2014 and operates in accordance with the Department of Planning & Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Development (January 2019). The committee membership consists of:

- Six local community representatives
- One Singleton Council delegate
- Three company representatives; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

The meetings are held bi-annually in May and October with attendees receiving a comprehensive presentation from the proponent. Topics of discussion during the reporting period included:

- The Rixs Creek Continuation of Mining Project (CMP) post approval process
- Modification 10 – extension of existing consent (whilst awaiting CMP) – approved 12/6/19
- Monitoring and Environmental Performance (including, noise, blasting and air quality)
- Community Complaints and Responses
- Care and maintenance of Fallbrook
- Pest Management
- Weed Management
- Biodiversity Offsets
- Water Management
- Rehabilitation; and
- Mine Tours undertaken on site by school/community groups.

The CCC is an effective communication forum between the community, the Council and the company. It functions well and accordingly, fulfils its objectives under the Department's guidelines.

### 2. CCC activities over last 12 months

The committee met in May 2020 (via video-conferencing due to COVID-19 restrictions) and October 2020 with an extraordinary meeting held in February 2020 to inform CCC members of the enactment of the conditions of consent for the approval of the Continuation of the Project (SSD 6300) as well as the proponent's intention to lodge a Modification for Rixs Creek North Mine Landform and Blasting Frequency.

- As a result of the Continuation of Mining approval, the Rix's Creek North and Rix's Creek South CCC has been combined and is now known as the Rix's Creek Mine CCC as per the new approval (SSD 6300, MP 08\_0102 and DA 49/94).
- Presentation on the Annual Review.
- In October 2020 the consultant's engaged to undertake the Independent Environmental Audit (GHD) made contact with the chair of the CCC to seek feedback from members for issues to be included in the audit process. Some members responded and this information was forwarded to the consultant.
- Community Newsletters (with modification application information) are provided to CCC members and distributed in the area, including neighbouring properties.
- The Mine Dust and You Fact Sheet was distributed to CCC members.
- Attendance at the meetings is high, with the occasional apology due to competing commitments of volunteers.
- There were no joint CCC's held.

### 3. Key issues

Trending topics of committee discussion can be summarised as:

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Actions Taken</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Rixs Creek Continuation of Mining</b>	Extraordinary meeting held on 12/2/20 to discuss post approval process of SSD 6300.	Application approved by DPIE.
<b>Environmental Monitoring</b>	The proponent provides detailed information of its environmental monitoring on site and its commitment to meeting legislative and regulatory compliance.	Ongoing presentations to CCC.
<b>Pest Management</b>	Control of kangaroos and wild dogs.	Culling and baiting undertaken in accordance with regulatory requirements.
<b>Review of Management Plans</b>	The proponent offered members the opportunity to be involved in the review of its Management Plans.	Management Plans are forwarded to CCC members for review. Members provided with 2 weeks to give comments.
<b>Modification 10 (Extension of Time)</b>	Under DA 49/94, the proponent was permitted to extract coal from the project site for a total of 21 years, expiring 24 June 2019. The proponent sought to extend the approval to extract coal from the current expiry of 24 June 2019 for nine months until 24 March 2020.	CCC members were kept informed of the assessment process with the Modification being approved in June 2019 by the IPC.
<b>Landform Amendment, Exploration And</b>	In June 2020, the proponent applied for a modification to its approval to temporarily	CCC members were kept informed of the process,

<b>Blasting Frequency Modification (MOD 9)</b>	increase the approved height of the overburden emplacement within the Camberwell Pit and to increase the number of blast events allowed within Rix's Creek North from two per day to three per day. This MOD also sought approval to undertake exploration activities.	with the application being approved in February 2021.
<b>Koala Habitat Guidelines</b>	Enquiry on how the koala habitat protection guidelines may impact the mine.	Any operations or proposed modifications will be undertaken in accordance with all legislative requirements.
<b>Closure of local newspaper (Singleton Argus)</b>	Enquiry on how the mine communicates with the broader community, given the shutdown of the Singleton Argus.	The proponent advised that the Singleton Argus was still available online that that Rix's Creek Mine had been advertising its required notices digitally. Also newsletters are prepared and delivered in the locale. It was decided by the CCC to place newsletters at Council, libraries and on local community noticeboards.
<b>Archeological Salvage</b>	As a result of the approval of SSD 6300, archeological salvage had been completed in consultation with registered aboriginal parties.	Information on salvage reported to CCC.
<b>Proposed Bridgeman Solar Farm</b>	The CCC were briefed by representatives of Mitsui who are proposing a solar project on land adjacent to Rix's Creek Mine that is owned by The Bloomfield Group.	Full briefing to CCC in October 2020. Proponent to advise CCC when the project will be on exhibition.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Interest in Rix's Creek's Biodiversity land and management (ie, trust, credits, agreements, bonds, etc)	Presentation to be provided to CCC at May 2021 meeting.

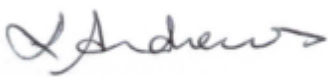
#### 4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2021 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- Continued updates on environmental monitoring of the site.
- Continued updates provided on monitoring and environmental performance.
- Annual Review.
- Independent Environmental Audit.
- Any proposed Modifications.
- Proposed site inspection.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed.

CCC minutes and presentations are available on the website.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	23 April 2021