



# Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.

PO Box 188  
East Maitland NSW 2323

Melissa Anderson  
Project Manager  
Major Development Assessment  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 31 Sydney NSW 2000

Wednesday 13 March 2019

Dear Ms Anderson

## **Rix's Creek South Modification 10 – extension of time DA 49/94**

### Submission of Objection

Hunter Environment Lobby Inc. (HEL) is a regional community-based environmental organization that has been active for over 20 years on the issues of environmental degradation, species and habitat loss, and climate change.

HEL strongly objects to the proposed tenth modification of the Rix's Creek South coal mine that applies for an extension of time to the approved mining operation.

We particularly object to this proposal being placed on public exhibition for two weeks during the NSW Government caretaker period.

We note that this mining operation, under its conditions of approval, should be at the final stage of rehabilitation with a Mine Closure Plan due to be submitted on 24 March 2019 in preparation for the end of mining activities on 24 June 2019.

The proposed modification provides no information about the activities that expect to be conducted on the mine site for an additional 9 months until March 2020.

HEL notes that the entire Rix's Creek Mine operations, North and South, have not been assessed under the 2016 EPA guidelines that require the new NEPM standards to be applied.

There is also no assessment of any greenhouse gas emissions that may be generated over an additional 9 months of activity on the mine site.

The application does not provide a map of where additional mining activities might take place.

The proposed Modification 10 should not have been accepted by the Department with such a paucity of information, let alone placed on public exhibition. This is a very low standard of assessment and approval process.

This proposal must be rejected outright or required to provide the necessary environmental impact assessment in regard to air, noise and greenhouse gas pollution, land and water source disturbance including cultural heritage sites.

We note that this operation has illegally mined unassessed and unapproved land disturbance in the past. We cannot support this application with no accompanying information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan Davis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Jan Davis  
President