

30 June 2017

Rix's Creek Mine
PO Box 4
East Maitland NSW 2323
Attention: Garry Bailey

Dear Garry,

Regarding: Overburden movement from RCS to RCN

This letter provides an opinion on a proposed change of operations by Rix's Creek mine (RCM).

The change proposed is to move some Rix's Creek South mine overburden and coal tailings to the overburden emplacement areas in the Rix's Creek North mine (RCN, formerly the Integra Open Cut, or IOC).

It is understood that for this activity RCM plan to use trucks that used to operate at IOC which they now own since acquiring that mine (which will be hereafter referred to as RCN).

RCN operations were approved based on noise predictions associated with an annual overburden movement of 26 bank cubic metres (BCM). The current approved mine operation plan for RCN is for only 10 million BCM per year. The proposal is to move from RCS into RCN an additional 5 and 0.5 million BCM of overburden and tailings respectively, for a combined total (RCN and RCS material) per year of 15.5 BCM.

Given that current RCN operations are at only 10 million BCM per year, there must be considerably less activity taking place there than modelled for the EIS. For example, there would be less drilling and coaling, meaning that activities causing site noise emissions must be well below that approved.

Of course the addition of overburden movements means that the increased activity would occur on high exposed areas, dumps and associated haul roads, which is one of the primary contributors to off-site noise. However, the total overburden movements planned are still somewhat below those approved via the EIS.

The above can be summarised as follows:

- plant to be operated is the same as that approved;
- current total site emissions should be well below that approved;
- the additional plant operations would still be less than those approved; and
- the total tonnage of overburden proposed to be moved annually is somewhat less than that approved.

Based on the above it is my opinion that it is reasonable to state that the proposed overburden movement activity represents a lesser noise emitting scenario than activities modelled for the RCN EIS.

I trust this information meets your requirements. If you have any questions or need further details please contact me.



Prepared: Tony Welbourne
Director



QA review: Jeremy Welbourne
Civil Engineer (Acoustics)