

Hamish Aiken

From: system@affinitylive.com on behalf of Sue Lewis <suejlewis@bigpond.com>
Sent: Thursday, 3 December 2015 3:24 PM
To: Hamish Aiken
Cc: Howard Reed
Subject: Submission Details for Sue Lewis (object)

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Sue Lewis
Email: suejlewis@bigpond.com

Address:
44 Waterloo St

Rozelle, NSW
2039

Content:
I object to an additional 32 million tonnes of coal being extracted until 2038. Australia's contribution to to global emissions is already far above per capita average.
The world is trying to limit CO2 emissions to manage environmental and economic impacts from climate change.
The extension of Rix's Creek Mine cannot be justified.

IP Address: and1145916.lnk.telstra.net - 120.150.179.12
Submission: Online Submission from Sue Lewis (object)
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_activity&id=133294

Submission for Job: #6300 Rix's Creek Extension Project
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_job&id=6300

Site: #2884 Rix's Creek Coal Mine
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_site&id=2884

Sue Lewis

E : suejlewis@bigpond.com

Hamish Aiken

From: system@affinitylive.com on behalf of Wendy White <wenwhite5@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 3 December 2015 4:24 PM
To: Hamish Aiken
Cc: Howard Reed
Subject: Submission Details for Wendy White (object)

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Wendy White
Email: wenwhite5@gmail.com

Address:
200 High St

East Maitland, NSW
2323

Content:

I wish to object to the Rix's Creek Mine Expansion for numerous reasons. There has been no recognition by the proponent of the current poor air quality in the proximity of the proposal. There will be an increase in the cumulative impact of dust and noise on Camberwell Village and surrounding neighbours.

In addition there has been no attempt to assess/identify any biodiversity offsets and there will be an adverse impact on the threatened squirrel glider.

The impacts on Rix's Creek will also be adverse and there has been little attempt to adequately assess impacts on surface and ground water

There seems to be little justification for this mine extension bearing in mind that the company has recently purchased the adjacent Integra mine so the jobs argument falls apart. It must be pointed out that within a 10km radius there are already 18 coal mines and approval of yet another will exacerbate water and biodiversity problems.

IP Address: 124-171-49-104.dyn.iinet.net.au - 124.171.49.104
Submission: Online Submission from Wendy White (object)
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_activity&id=133318

Submission for Job: #6300 Rix's Creek Extension Project
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_job&id=6300

Site: #2884 Rix's Creek Coal Mine
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_site&id=2884

Wendy White

E : wenwhite5@gmail.com

Hamish Aiken

From: system@affinitylive.com on behalf of Sharyn Munro <sharyn@sharynmunro.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2015 4:21 PM
To: Hamish Aiken
Cc: Howard Reed
Subject: Submission Details for Sharyn Munro (object)

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Sharyn Munro
Email: sharyn@sharynmunro.com

Address:
174 Koppin Yarratt Rd

Upper Lansdowne, NSW
2430

Content:

I do not believe this mine should be allowed, primarily as it will increase the cumulative impact of noise, dust and blasting on Camberwell village and surrounding neighbours.

This proposal cannot be considered in isolation; yet there is no recognition of the current poor air quality in its immediate proximity.

Nor have the social impacts of the change of operation to 24hr/day, 7 days/week been adequately assessed. In addition, community consultation has been extremely poor.

Environmentally, it will impact on the threatened Squirrel Glider and a critically endangered ecological community. Yet no biodiversity offset areas have been identified or assessed.

Waterwise, it will have an Increased impact on Rix's Creek, and the assessment of surface and ground water impacts is inadequate.

The poor Hunter will be left with yet another final void - 243 ha - in its landscape. Why permit such ongoing environmental issues and costs as these voids create?

With 18 coal mines within a 10km radius of the mine, it is appalling that no adequate assessment has been done of its additional cumulative impact on biodiversity, surface and groundwater and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Despite the usual mantra, there is no justification for this mine extension to provide jobs, royalties and product for contracts because of of the company's recent purchase of the adjacent Integra open cut mine.

IP Address: - 1.144.96.215
Submission: Online Submission from Sharyn Munro (object)
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_activity&id=133138

Submission for Job: #6300 Rix's Creek Extension Project
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_job&id=6300

Site: #2884 Rix's Creek Coal Mine
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_site&id=2884

Sharyn Munro

E : sharyn@sharynmunro.com

Hamish Aiken

From: system@affinitylive.com on behalf of Susanne Skates <ar.smskates@skymesh.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 December 2015 10:28 AM
To: Hamish Aiken
Cc: Howard Reed
Subject: Submission Details for Susanne Skates (object)

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Susanne Skates
Email: ar.smskates@skymesh.com.au

Address:
116 Booral-Washpool Road,

Booral NSW , NSW
2425

Content:
I object to an additional 32 million tonnes of coal being extracted until 2038.
The world is trying to limit CO2 emissions to manage environmental and economic impacts from climate change.
The extension of Rix's Creek Mine cannot be justified

IP Address: - 114.129.183.234
Submission: Online Submission from Susanne Skates (object)
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_activity&id=133204

Submission for Job: #6300 Rix's Creek Extension Project
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_job&id=6300

Site: #2884 Rix's Creek Coal Mine
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_site&id=2884

Susanne Skates

E : ar.smskates@skymesh.com.au

Hamish Aiken

From: system@affinitylive.com on behalf of Ron Fenwick <randjfenwick@bigpond.com>
Sent: Monday, 30 November 2015 4:25 PM
To: Hamish Aiken
Cc: Howard Reed
Subject: Submission Details for Ron Fenwick (object)

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Ron Fenwick
Email: randjfenwick@bigpond.com

Address:
PO Box 62

Singleton, NSW
2330

Content:

Points for Rix's Creek submission of objection:

As with all the expansion/continuation applications that Planning NSW have promoted the mining company in question has already exhausted the approval period and expects to be granted approval without question for the standard reasons being offered, being benefit to the state and continuation of employment. From the directions being sought through the Minerals Council lobbying there is an ongoing reduction of the requirements to fulfil the rehabilitation assurances that were made previously.

The claimed beneficial use of voids is simply a means of reduction in commitment, reduction in costs and an excuse to leave the voids on departure. Rix's Creek has been operating since 1990. It has had 25 years of production and wishes to extend this. Like other open cut operations there will be a void left to "rehabilitate" or leave depending on the outcome of this application and the outcomes of the voids claims being offered. The intent to leave a 243ha void appears small but when you add to the numbers of voids being anticipated it leaves a huge area of the valley that will be hazardous.

With or without the void issue, the Department must make sense of the future needs as well as the commitments made by the companies and accept that there time has run the course intended.

The application needs to be denied and all commitments made need to be confirmed and followed through to appropriate rehabilitation.

Points to consider:

1. An ongoing and potential increase cumulative impact of noise, dust and blasting on Camberwell village and surrounding neighbours.
2. There is no recognition of current poor air quality in proximity of the proposal.
3. The change of operation to 24hr/day, 7 days/week have not been adequately assessed for social impacts.
4. The impact on threatened Squirrel Glider and critically endangered ecological community.
5. No biodiversity offset areas have been identified or assessed.
6. Increased impact on Rix's Creek, with poor assessment of surface and ground water impacts.
7. Leave 243 ha final void in the landscape.
8. There is no consideration for Cumulative impact - 18 coal mines within 10km radius. No adequate assessment of additional cumulative impact on biodiversity, surface and groundwater, Aboriginal cultural heritage.
9. There is no viable justification for mine extension to provide jobs, royalties and product for contracts because of recent purchase of adjacent Integra open cut mine.
10. Similarly the justification for expansion because the Bloomfield Mine at East Maitland will be depleted over next 10 yrs is simply another non-essential argument.

IP Address: cpe-110-147-143-67.nhl8.cht.bigpond.net.au - 110.147.143.67

Submission: Online Submission from Ron Fenwick (object)

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_activity&id=132937

Submission for Job: #6300 Rix's Creek Extension Project

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_job&id=6300

Site: #2884 Rix's Creek Coal Mine

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_site&id=2884

Ron Fenwick

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Singleton NSW 2330
T 0427 000 910
F 02 6573 3256
E sally@orbitplanning.com.au
ABN 46 484 735 708

3 December 2015

Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Hamish Aiken

Dear Hamish,

Rix's Creek Expansion Project - Application Reference: SSD 6300
Submission prepared on behalf of R & J Wilkinson (Inverlea Pty Ltd)
Lot 32 & 33 DP 634692, No. 349 Bridgman Road, Singleton.

1. Introduction

We act on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. Wilkinson, the owners of Lot 32 & 33 DP 634692, No. 349 Bridgman Road, Singleton. We have reviewed the documentation submitted in support of the Rix's Creek Expansion Project and appreciate this opportunity to lodge a submission on behalf of our client.

A Planning Proposal was lodged with Singleton Council in March 2012 seeking the rezoning of our client's land from RU1 Primary Production to a mix of R1 General Residential and E2 Environmental Conservation. The Planning Proposal received Gateway approval from Department of Planning and Environment on 11 June 2013. Our client has invested significant funds in the preparation of a number of detailed environmental and infrastructure servicing studies to meet the Gateway requirements (lodged December 2013), and the Planning Proposal is now in the final stages of the assessment process.

As you would be aware there is a long history to the Rix's Creek Mine approval, one that our client is familiar with as a long term land owner in the region. Our client is not opposed to mining development in principle, however, they seek assurance from the Department of Planning & Environment and the operators of Rix's Creek Mine that the proposed mine extension will not jeopardise the use of their land for residential purposes, as proposed in the current Planning Proposal, and that any dust, noise or vibration impacts will be within permitted levels for the residential zoned land.

2. Site Description

Our client's property has a 280 metre frontage to Bridgman Road, is irregular in shape and has a combined area of 48.4 hectares. The site is located immediately adjacent to the existing R1 General Residential zoned area of Singleton Heights and is within the 'North East' urban expansion area identified under the Council adopted and Department of Planning & Environment endorsed Singleton Land Use Strategy 2008. The site is ideally positioned to connect to existing water and sewer infrastructure services without the need for major upgrades or pumping stations, a key characteristic

that will enable the land to be developed without delay and differentiates it from other potential town expansion areas that require major infrastructure upgrades.

The location of our site is illustrated in **Figure 1**.

An aerial view of our site relative to Rix's Creek Coal Lease is provided in **Figure 2**.

The existing and proposed land use zones are illustrated in **Figure 3**.

3. Rix's Creek Coal Mine Approval History

We submit that the background to the previous and current mine approval are relevant considerations to this current proposal which seeks to expand the mine life by another 21 years. We summarise the history as follows:

3.1 Original Consent – Coal Lease 185

A development consent under Coal Lease 185 was granted to Rix's Creek Coal Mine in 1989. This original approval was granted following a Commission of Inquiry into the suitability of the mine having regard to its proximity to the Singleton township. The Commission of Inquiry (COI) report dated July 1989 clearly identified that the mine operation was designed and staged to progressively move away from the residential areas of Singleton towards the north and west throughout the 21 year mine life. The COI report further recommended that a buffer area be imposed, the position of which was determined by the modeled noise and dust impacts of the mine. It is noted that our client's land was located outside of this buffer area.

In considering impacts that exceeded the nominated buffer area the Commission of Inquiry report stated:

"Should unforeseen impacts occur particularly in relation to dust, we do not recommend for this mine an extension of the buffer area recommended in this report, by property acquisition, but rather modification of the mining operations at Rix's Creek" (Page ii Recommendation No. 2 of the COI report July 1989).

The belief that the mine could be operated without impacting on the Singleton urban area was further endorsed by the supporting Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by Croft & Associates, which identified the existing and future land uses within proximity of the proposed mine and in regard to Singleton Heights stated:

'Impacts due to noise, dust and visual pollution will be negligible in the existing area of Singleton Heights, and in the areas to the north and east of Singleton Heights which are proposed and planned for residential and various rural residential subdivision (our emphasis).

Any changes in the environment of Singleton Heights due to the Rix's Creek project will be of such low magnitude so as not to be detectable. Residents can expect greater changes due to increasing urban population and the additional local road, highway and rail traffic, which more people and expanded economic development in the Upper Hunter Valley will bring.

The implications of the project for land use relate mainly to the impact on the site and buffer area and to the fact that this land is close to Singleton township will be unavailable for other uses until mining is completed. Current and proposed uses for the land outside the site and a buffer zone should not be seen to be prevented by the project.' (Croft & Associates EIS page 8)



FIGURE 1 Locality Plan

NOT TO SCALE



FIGURE 2 Aerial View

NOT TO SCALE

Source: Google Maps,
Trade & Investment NSW
and Orbit Planning



Singleton Local Environmental Plan 2013

Land Zoning Map - Sheet LZN_014A

Zone

- B1 Neighbourhood Centre
- B2 Commercial Core
- B4 Mixed Use
- B5 Business Development
- B6 Enterprise Corridor
- E1 National Parks and Nature Reserves
- E2 Environmental Conservation
- E3 Environmental Management
- E4 Environmental Living
- IN3 Heavy Industrial
- R1 General Residential
- R2 Low Density Residential
- R5 Large Lot Residential
- RE1 Public Recreation
- RE2 Private Recreation
- RU1 Primary Production
- RU2 Rural Landscape
- RU3 Forestry
- RU4 Primary Production Small Lots
- RU5 Village
- SP2 Infrastructure
- W2 Recreational Waterways
- DM Deferred Matter

Cadastrate

- Cadastrate 08/03/2013
- © Land and Property Information (LPI)

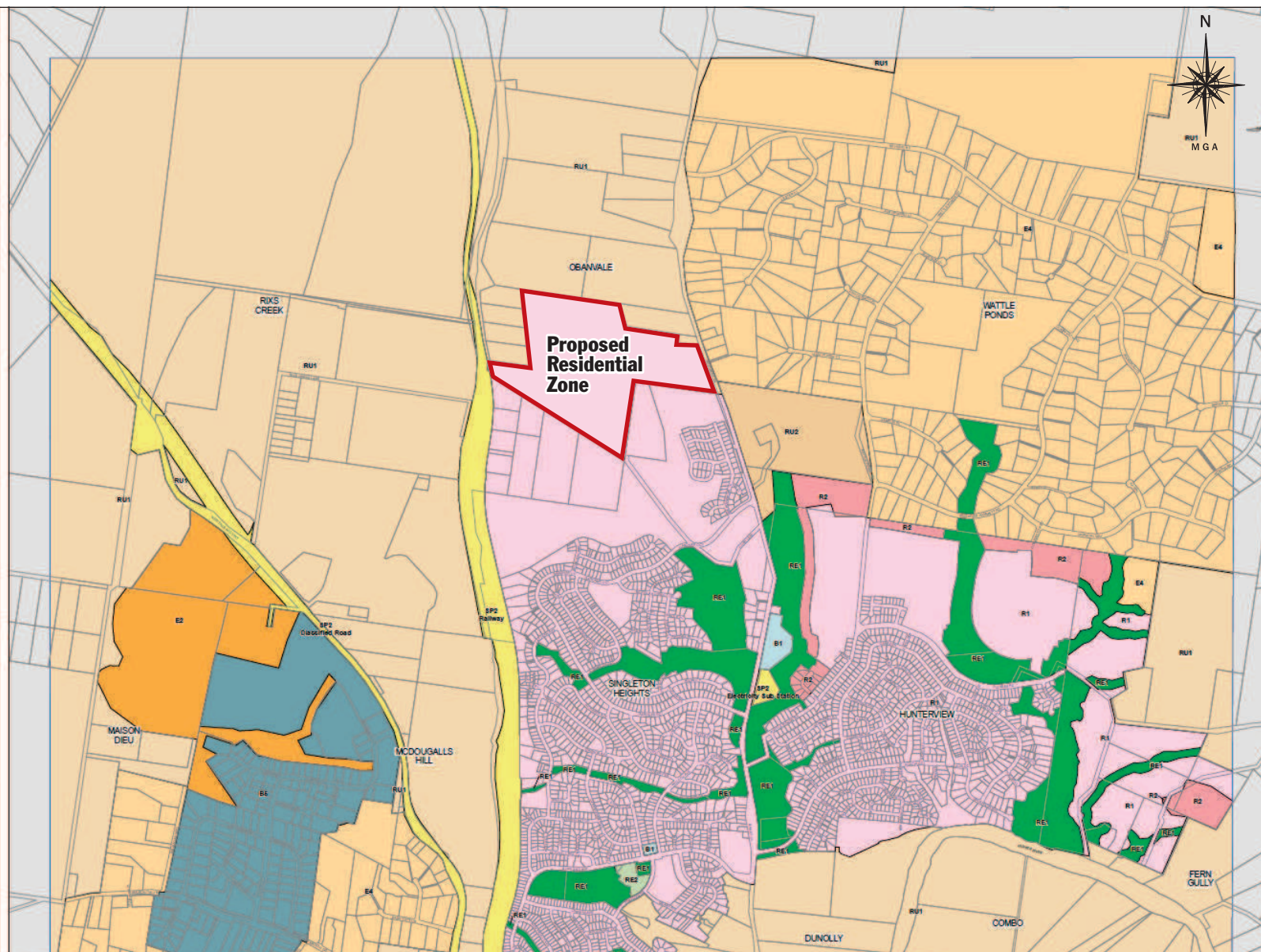
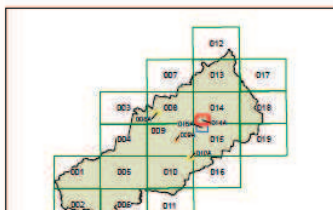


FIGURE 3 Existing and Proposed Land Use Zones

NOT TO SCALE

Source: Singleton Council
& Orbit Planning

It is evident from a review of the COI report that approval of the mine was recommended on the basis that the mine would progressively move away from the town and that it would not impact on the existing township and importantly it would not infringe on the future planned residential areas to the north of the town, which includes our client's land. This position is further supported by a submission to the COI by the then Department of Minerals and Energy which stated:

'The Department would submit that there is no time better than now to proceed with coal mining in the Rix's Creek area so that the aim to have coal mining progressively move away from the areas being developed for urban purposes can be realised' (Page 123 COI report July 1989).

3.2 Development Consent 49/94 – Coal Lease 352

An extension to the original 1989 approval was granted on 19 October 1995 via a second and dominant development application (DA49/94) for Coal Lease 352.

A review of the accompanying EIS prepared by Envirosiences Pty Limited identified that mining would take place in three pits:

- Pit 1 – north of the New England Highway,
- Pit 2 – south of the New England Highway and east of Rix's Creek,
- Pit 3 – south of the New England Highway and to the west of Rix's Creek,

The predicted maximum area of affectation (by noise and dust) was identified in Figure 12b of the Envirosiences Pty Limited EIS and it did not essentially encroach on our client's land. The impacts were predicted to move away from the Singleton residential area towards the west as the mine life progressed. This pattern is consistent with the justification forwarded by the proponent, and endorsed by the Department of Minerals and Energy and the Commission of Inquiry COI in the approval for the original mine application.

3.3 Modification Applications

There have been 6 modification applications to this consent for the Rix's Creek mine, which are summarised as follows:

- Modifications 1 (Approved February 1999) - Change to Condition 11(iv) – change to when independent noise monitoring can be requested and Condition 17(C) - typographical error.
- Modification 2 (Approved December 2003) - Permitted coal from Glennies Creek underground mine to be processed and railed from Rix's Creek (temporary / short term measure)
- Modification 3 (Approved June 2004) - Permitted Rix's Creek to receive, process and transport a 25,000 tonne bulk coal sample from the Bickham coal exploration project, near the town of Murrurundi. The approval permitted the coal to be received for a relatively short time, nominally over a 12 week period.
- Modification 4 (Approved August 2009) - Permitted the construction of a second vehicle crossing in the form of a cut and cover tunnel over the New England Highway.
- Modification 5* (Approved November 2013) – Permitted the construction and operation of a 5.6km rail loop and rail spur off the Main Northern Line for transport of coal to Newcastle.
- Modification 6 (Approved December 2014) – Permitted Rix's Creek to move a maximum of 16.1 million bank cubic metres of material a year in order to

extract 2.8Mt of ROM coal, and maintain the approved local production rate of 1.5Mt a year.

*Relevantly, the assessment for Modification 5 identified an objection by Singleton Council to the potential noise impacts of the proposed rail loop on the proposed residential land release area in Singleton, which includes our client's land. The response from Rix's Creek representative was that any noise impacts would be minor, provided the recommended management measure were put in place.

4. The Proposed Extension

The proposal seeks approval for the expansion of Pit 3 (located on the western side of New England Highway), an increase in production to a maximum of 4.5MT pa of ROM coal and 2.7MT pa of saleable coal, and an extension of the mine life by a further 21 years.

5. Objections

5.1 Clarification requested on adequacy of EIS to consider imminent future residential use of land.

A review of the EIS indicates that the air quality and acoustic assessments do not appear to have taken into consideration the future use of our client's land for residential purposes, which we argue is imminent and should therefore be identified as such for the purposes of this assessment. We note that the acoustic assessment has failed to include the western part of our client's land within any Noise Assessment Group (NAG) and we seek assurance that the whole of our clients site has been assessed for impacts. We also note that the air quality and acoustic assessment do not appear to have identified the future sensitive receivers on Singleton Council's vacant R1 General Residential zone land which immediately adjoins our client's property to the south and a large portion of this land is also excluded from any NAG.

Although we are not experts on dust and noise impacts, the close proximity of the existing residential land of Singleton Heights to our client's land would indicate potential for a similar level of impact from the proposed mine expansion and would suggest that these areas should be considered under the same NAG (which they currently are not). In this regard we note that our client's land has been included in NAG B and the adjoining vacant R1 General Residential land is in NAG D.

We seek assurance from the proponent and Department of Planning and Environment that the EIS assessment covers all of our client's land and that it has factored in the imminent change to a residential zone.

5.2 Potential Dust Impacts – Lot 32 & 33 DP 634692

We note that the proposed expansion of Pit 3 is located on the western side of the New England Highway, which is approximately 2.5 kilometres from our client's land. From our review of the documentation it would appear that the air quality assessment indicates that there would not be any adverse dust impacts on our client's land, however, we seek confirmation that this will continue to be the case when the future residential zone has been factored into the air quality modelling.

5.3 Potential Noise Impacts – Lot 32 & 33 DP 634692

Our client has engaged the services of an independent acoustic consultant to review the submitted acoustic report and provide preliminary advice on the mine's potential impact on their property. The advice from the independent consultant is that if the modelling provided by Global Acoustics in the EIS is correct then the potential for our client's land to be impacted by noise comes from the Coal Handling Preparation Plant (CHPP) and the Run of Mine (ROM) trucks. The acoustic modelling indicates that there is minimal impact on our client's land at the moment, and that the exceedances evident are due to the CHPP and the ROM trucks which are proposed to be treated to reduce emissions (side panels on the Coal Preparation Plant (CPP) and a transition to new attenuated vehicles). The assessment further indicates that the situation will be improved over time by the proposed noise treatments and the natural progress of the pit to the west.

We seek assurance that the modelling undertaken for the acoustic assessment has taken into consideration the future residential use of our client's land and that the proposed expansion of the mine and the continued operation for another 21 years will not result in unlawful noise impacts on any of our client's property (not just the existing dwelling).

5.4 Potential Impacts - General Comments

We take this opportunity to provide some additional general comments on the proposed mine expansion and summarise the key findings of the acoustic assessment as follows (these are expanded on briefly below):

- The existing mine has a history of noise complaints and there is a Pollution Reduction Program in place;
- The mine does not comply with the current conditions of consent in relation to noise limits;
- The proposed mine expansion does not comply with the intrusiveness criteria identified under the Industrial Noise Policy (INP) (being Rating Background Level (RBL) plus 5d(B)A) for all NAG's;
- The mine seeks approval for a Project Specific Noise Goal (PSNG) which exceeds both the current conditions of consent and the intrusiveness criteria under the INP;
- The mine seeks to rely on 'legacy noise' provisions in the INP to justify increasing permitted noise levels on nearby properties.

Condition 10 of the existing consent for the mine applies a consistent noise level design goal for the 'Singleton Heights' and 'The Retreat' suburban locations, being 42 dB(A) L10 during the day and 40 dB(A) L10 for nighttime. We understand that this approach has not been adopted in the latest assessment with different intrusive noise criteria being applied to these two areas. The independent acoustic review commissioned by our client highlighted that they could see no reason to amend the Project Specific Noise Goal (PSNG) from the existing level in the Consent other than to bring them into line with current measurement practice, which we are advised would be 39dB(A) Leq for daytime and 37 dB(A) Leq for nighttime.

The proposal seeks approval for PSNG applicable to all time periods (day and night) of:

- LAeq,15minute 40 dB for NAG D to O
- LAeq,15minute 42 dB for NAG A, B and C

The proposed PSNG does not comply with the Industrial Noise Policy and would exceed the equivalent current criteria of the current consent by 1-3dB(A) during the day and by 3- 5dB(A) at night. The independent acoustic reviewer further highlighted that in their opinion it would be unreasonable for approval to be given for an increase in the noise intrusive criteria under this application, given the existence of the proposed noise reduction program and the fact that mining is moving to the west, away from the existing and proposed urban areas. They advised, and we agree, that if anything the PSNG for the application should be reduced as the levels will be easier to achieve under the proposed expansion.

We also note that the consent under which the existing mine operates is time limited and expires in late 2016. The mine does not have approval to operate indefinitely and if this expansion is not approved the mine operation on the site will cease within 12 months, as would any impacts on the nearby urban land as was clearly envisaged when the mine was originally approved. In these circumstances we find it difficult to understand how the acoustic assessment can describe the mine operation as an existing development with legacy noise issues and seek a concession on compliance with current noise criteria on this basis. We submit that any new application to extend the operation of this mine for another 21 years should be held to the most stringent noise criteria, especially given the history of the previous approval and its close proximity to the existing township of Singleton.

Singleton's north-west land bank comprising Singleton Heights and The Retreat existed before the original approval of the Rix's Creek mine was issued and these uses are clearly the preferred and dominant use in the area. For 40 years these areas have been planned and progressively developed to accommodate urban expansion, a decision made to respond to the development constraints of the town centre to the south east being located on a floodplain and major coal resources to the north west. There are many other mine operations in the Local Government Area which are isolated from the town and these provide ample opportunity for expansion without impacting on residents. If the operator of the proposed mine is unwilling or financially unable to implement the necessary changes to the mine plan or apply mitigation measures to ensure the mine complies with applicable noise and dust criteria, and can co-exist with the existing and future urban areas of Singleton, then approval for operation for another 21 years should clearly not be granted.

6. Conclusion

The Rix's Creek mine is approaching the end of its 21 year approval and the mining operations have progressed to the north and west of the lease area, away from the Singleton township, as intended under the mine approval. We submit that it is unreasonable for the mine to seek a PSNG that does not comply with the Industrial Noise Policy and that is above that applied to the original consent. We further submit that the proposed mine expansion sought under this application, which includes a substantial increase in coal production and extension of the mine's life by 21 years, should only be supported if it can demonstrate that it will not adversely impact on the existing residential land comprising Singleton Heights and The Retreat and the proposed residential land within the 'North East' urban expansion area identified

under the Council adopted and Department of Planning & Environment endorsed Singleton Land Use Strategy 2008.

We request confirmation from the Department of Planning & Environment that the environmental studies prepared for the mine expansion have adequately taken into consideration the future use of our client's land for residential purposes. The proponent has been aware of the current Planning Proposal for a period of over 3 years and we submit that it is crucial for any expansion of the mine to take this imminent future use into consideration. We further submit that if the mine can not demonstrate through the adoption of a modified mine plan or appropriate mitigation measures that it can co-exist with the existing and proposed urban areas of Singleton then the expansion should be refused.

Should you wish to discuss this submission or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 0427 000 910.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Flannery', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Sally Flannery MPIA CPP
Director

Hamish Aiken

From: system@affinitylive.com on behalf of Rosie Hayes <jlhayes@bigpond.com>
Sent: Thursday, 3 December 2015 2:55 PM
To: Hamish Aiken
Cc: Howard Reed
Subject: Submission Details for Rosie Hayes (object)

Confidentiality Requested: no

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Rosie Hayes
Email: jlhayes@bigpond.com

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117 Ingall St

Mayfield East, NSW
2304

Content:
To NSW Planning.

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/development-categories/mining--petroleum---extractive-industries/mining/?action=view_job&job_id=6300

Re: Objection to Rix's Creek Mine Expansion
I have been living in Newcastle since 2004< I am the mother of 5 married Children and the grand mother of 5.

I am very worried about Climate Change and the Environment, and Global Warming, and believe we should be moving away from Coal and towards Renewables urgently.

In relation to the proponent's submission for the proposed expansion of the Rix's Creek Mine I note:

1. The expansion will lead to Additional 3 million tonnes of coal per year down though the Rail lines and exported through the Port of Newcastle, until 2038;

I already know that the Rail lines from all the coal mines in The Hunter, Liverpool Plains and Ulan etc to the Newcastle Port are extremely congested - so much so that the coal mines and ARTC are trying to force passenger trains off the lines. They object to new passenger services; and in some cases call for Railway Stations to be closed.

The Station at Lochinvar is a case in point. Coal trains (loaded and unloaded) go though Lochinvar every 8 minutes. There is a brand new subdivision "Huntlee" just being opened up very close to Lochinvar - with no public transport services. It is expected that within a few years Huntlee will have a brand new population of 20,000 to 30,000 people; so they will need a good Passenger Rail service, and a Railway Station nearby

3 million pa extra tonnes of coal from Rix's creek means an extra 25,000 coal wagons, made up into an extra 277 extra loaded trains, or an extra 555 loaded and unloaded train journeys pa.

This proposed expansion cannot be looked at in isolation.

2. There has been no recognition of the cumulative impact on air quality and health in the Hunter region;

3. There has been poor community consultation - no regional people have been informed of the project assessment;

4. There has been no commitment to cover coal wagons;

Or

to ensure better rail transport practices to achieve better Industrial Hygiene on the coal trains to prevent overloading, coal being carried on the outside of the wagons, including on the Wings, The Platforms and the Bogies;

And

to ensure no carry back coal is carried on the unloaded wagons - going back to the mine;

5. The proposed Increase in coal production will come at the time when the world is trying to cut greenhouse gas emissions, in International meetings at Paris occurring now.

Refusing this application would be a good opportunity to wind back coal production in the Hunter, and move towards transitioning to renewables;

6. There is a very poor assessment of cumulative impacts on the Upper Hunter environment;

7. The proposed expansion will threaten the Squirrel Glider and other critically endangered ecological community in this area, and this impact has been poorly assessed;

8. No biodiversity offset areas have been identified, offered or assessed by the proponent;
9. The proposed expansion will have an increased impact on Rix's Creek, and there has been little or no assessment of this;
And a very poor assessment of surface and ground water impacts has been done.
10. The proposed expansion will leave a 243 ha final void in the landscape.
This is unacceptable cost shifting onto the environment and the community.
11. There must be provision in the final landscape design for:
Any void to be filled;
And
The full costs of such remediation must be covered in a Remediation bond.
A brief background for this proposal follows:

Background

Bloomfield is small Australian company with an underground mine at East Maitland and Rix's Creek open cut & underground close to Singleton

Rix's Creek Mine covers 1,818 ha - 5km NW Singleton

Current approval to June 2019, operating since 1990, plan to extend life of mine to 2038

Small operation producing 1.5mtpa thermal and coking coal; extension aims to increase production to 4.5mtpa

Open cut has high strip ratio 10:1, large area of land needed to dump overburden

Bloomfield has long term contracts with Japan, Korea and Taiwan

Main justification for the Rix's Creek expansion is that Bloomfield Mine at East Maitland will be depleted over next 10 yrs.

However it should be noted that Bloomfield recently purchased the adjacent Integra open cut that has been in care & maintenance (non operational) since last year.

So, probably the Main Justification offered by the Proponent is now in tatters

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Submission: Online Submission from Rosie Hayes (object)

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_activity&id=133277

Submission for Job: #6300 Rix's Creek Extension Project

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_job&id=6300

Site: #2884 Rix's Creek Coal Mine

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_site&id=2884

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Rixs creek mine extension

Application: SSD 6300

To Department of Planning

We object to the application of Rixs creek to extend their mining area on these grounds.

1. The application will have severe impact on the village of Camberwell and surrounding area, also will impact on Maison Dieu community.
2. We went to Singleton to attend a presentation at the Singleton Town Square, there was no one there. The lack of community engagement seemed apparent.
3. The increase in the impacts of noise on communities which has been proven by WHO and EEA that at these levels causes health impacts. In which EEA has reported in 2011 of 10,000 deaths related to noise, which could be very well underestimated.
4. The dust production is excessive and there has not been a proper study on cumulative impacts on PM on exposure in the hunter valley. The fact of large number of exceedance's now in the area, and this has not been reduced, that the industry should be held accountable for deaths associated to poor air quality, there is no screening done on near neighbour related to exposure to high PM done by the industry as they occupational exposed by association. The employees of the industry are required under legislation to protect their health and safety but who protects the innocent from exposure by association, by placing a mine to close to communities.
5. Final voids, the department has stated that it looks at the assessment of individual mines but what are the cumulative impacts on the hunter valley and the water network system. What is the cost to fill these voids in; this is not disclosed in the report.
6. The impacts on gullies and waterway, with run off from the mine into the Hunter River and dams for stock.
7. The protection of other industries for future growth and sustainability, mining is not sustainable.
8. Double standards in relation to cut down trees, a farmer has to go through so much red tape to proceed, and if it was endangered it would be not be granted at all and yet a mining company gets an approval straight away to remove all our protected species, is if the vegetation is of no value at all, the only importance is the resource or the other double standard we grant them biodiversity offsets in another area or next our government will let them do it another country.
9. Don't worry about the fauna will just run they over, and remove their home, they don't need it to survive, tough luck here in this state, nothing matters but removing the resource.

10. This company has just recently purchased Integra coal, so there is continue employment for the employees for a number of years, enough time for these individuals to plan for their future and hopefully our council will look beyond mining and ensure a diverse area for employment, otherwise Singleton will not be viable in the future.

11. Planning process is deficient in making a proper strategic plan in relation to buffer zone which should be no less than 3.5km from any rural village or community or residential place or industry. Therefore this application would be within the buffer zone and the impact of causing harm to others is apparent.

12. There is no documentation which provided in the EIS on sustainable groundwater in the upper hunter at a cumulative area.

13. The dewatering of the area and the impact of the groundwater system

14. The future costs on maintenance and monitoring of final voids on a cumulative scale, lack of documentation and management plan, no documentation on how to rectify if the void changes to a flow through cell and the cost to the environment and the loss of the hunter river to salinity.

15. No structure in relation to management of tailings and the chemical, the forcible impact on the water network system if the chemicals break down and cause harm after been capped or placed in the void, is this toxic interaction in the future.

16. There is no plan in relation to the hunter river of controlling salinity and toxicity when voids change from sinks to flow through cell. When questioned the department on what type of final voids will remain in the hunter the answer was not supplied, so looking at individual applications is not sufficient.

17. When asking the office of water in relation to cumulative impacts, they stated they look at the individual application but to this day have not provided an answer related to cumulative impacts of groundwater sustainability, impacts on surface water loss, the amount of water is required from regulated system to cover the losses in the surface water loss and the underground loss, when the population growth is expected to accelerate in a number of years or the climatic conditions change and the importance of water for the survival of environment we live in.