

OBJECTION

Rix's Creek Modification 10

Flagrant collusion between the NSW Government and mining industry

The Rix's Creek open cut coal mine current approval runs out on 24 June 2019. Under this approval the mine should be nearing completion of rehabilitation and final landform. A closure plan should be in place from 24 March 2019.

The owners, Bloomfield, submitted an application for a mine extension in 2014 to produce 4.5mtpa coal until 2038. In the meantime they open cut nearly 100 ha outside the area approved for mining. None of this area has been assessed for environmental impact.

In 2017 DPE took them to the Land & Environment Court for illegal land disturbance. The outcome was a requirement to find a biodiversity offset. There was no other penalty for this breach of the Mining Act and EP&A Act.

The extension application went before a public hearing of the IPC in June 2018 (extinguishing our merit appeal rights.) DPE is still waiting for more information to complete a final assessment report.

Modification 10 is an application to extend the life of the mine until March 2020 – expecting an approval of the extension. This was put on exhibition by DPE for 2 weeks during the NSW Govt caretaker period leading up to the state election.

There is no explanation provided about where the mining will continue for another 6 months when it should now be completed.

Key Points of Objection:

1. Rix's Creek Mine is in breach of its current consent conditions
2. The modification application provides no information about where mining operations are still occurring on the mine site or what area will be disturbed during another 9 months.
3. An updated assessment of air quality impacts for the entire mine site is required under the new EPA 2016 guidelines and new NEPM standard
4. No information has been supplied about the volume of coal being produced
5. The greenhouse gas emissions from another 9 months mining have not been assessed
6. The application for an extension of time must be rejected

Alan Leslie, 339 The Inlet Rd, Bulga, NSW 2330