

## **OBJECTION**

**Judith Leslie**

**Rix's Creek Modification 10**

**339 The Inlet Road BULGA 2330**

### **Another Example of 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. Instead of a closure plan being in place from 24 March 2019. Now we have Modification 10 ; 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. A flagrant flouting of reasonable governmental practice

### **A Company and mine with poor record**

Bloomfield, the Company responsible, submitted an application in 2014 for a mine extension to produce 4.5mtpa coal until 2038. Since that time nearly 100 ha outside the area approved for mining has been open-cut. 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. Biodiversity offsets make a mockery of any real attempt to minimise biodiversity impacts. This “slap on the wrist” was the only 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 merit appeal rights of citizens most affected by impacts.) DPE is still waiting for more information to complete a final assessment report.

There is no explanation provided about where the mining will continue for another 6 months when it should be completed, under the current approval

Once again the IPC process is being used (and abused) . The panel is being asked to assess a project where much information essential to an informed decision is incomplete.

### **Key Points of Objection:**

1. Rix's Creek Mine is ALREADY 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. Declining air quality in the Singleton area is an ongoing issue.
4. No information has been supplied about the volume of coal being produced. It should be noted Australia has the biggest export carbon footprint in the world. Instead of extending mines there

should be concerted effort to cease all new mining activity and progress swiftly to a just transition from emission intensive activity and exports.

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

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