

Rix's Creek South – Modification 10 – Extension of Time

To the Major Project Assessment Manager,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to make a personal submission to **support** the Rix's Creek South – Modification 10 – Extension of Time (Mod 10).

As CEO and Managing Director of the Bloomfield Group, I am in an ideal position to enthusiastically provide copious amounts of information, opinion and support for the Rix's Creek Continuation Project.

However, it is not appropriate to provide such evidence or support in this case because of the purpose and content of Mod 10 which does not seek further opinion on the merits of the Continuation Project. Mod 10 simply requests additional time (if required) for the Independent Planning Commission of NSW (IPCN) to complete its assessment of the Rix's Creek Continuation Project and to reach a measured, balanced and sound decision.

The Rix's Creek Continuation Project was initially submitted for assessment in March 2014. In the five years since, the Project has progressed through a rigorous and evolving planning and assessment process. After extensive expert opinion and reporting, public display, comment and hearing, IPCN review (including IPCN recommendations and their refinement of the project) the project has progressed to Stage 9 (Finalise Assessment) of a ten stage process, with the final stage (Determination) to follow.

The existing consent for the Rix's Creek mine expires on 24 June 2019 (approximately thirteen weeks from the date of writing). The State of NSW is holding an election on 23 March 2019. While it is possible that the IPCN may be able to complete its assessment prior to 24 June 2019, processes within the NSW government have already slowed due to standard protocols that apply to caretaker governments immediately prior to elections. There may be additional delays after the election.

Should insufficient time remain for the IPCN to make a final determination before the existing mining consent expires, mining in the currently consented area would need to cease until a decision is reached. That would cause considerable disruption to the workers on the Rix's Creek Mine site, their families and the many contractors that service the operation.

Approval of Mod 10 WILL -

- Provide a time contingency for the IPCN to consider the project, by extending the term of the existing approval by 9 months
- Reduce the risk of a significant economic disruption risk to workers, the business and the broader local community.

The approval of Mod 10 WILL NOT –

- Permit mining in areas that are not currently approved
- Change the currently approved extraction footprint
- Change the currently approved production rate
- Change the currently approved mining method.

In conclusion, the purpose of Mod 10 is to allow for the orderly administration and completion of a rigorous but evolving planning process. Mod 10 has not been submitted to change or enhance the existing mining operations.

Therefore I see no basis why anyone, either a supporter of or objector to the Rix's Creek Continuation Project, could reasonably object to Mod 10.

Thank you and regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Lewis'.

Brett Lewis