

21 March 2019

The Department of Planning and Environment

New South Wales

To whom it may concern

**Re: Rixs Creek South – Modification 10 – Extension of Time**

I make this submission in support of the Rixs Creek South – Modification 10 – Extension of Time application made by Rixs Creek Mine and the Bloomfield Group.

I am an employment and WHS lawyer and have provided in house services to the Bloomfield Group generally for the past 4 years, and regularly act for other mining, mining services and maintenance companies in the Hunter Valley.

In my experience the Bloomfield Group operates with a level of diligence rarely met by business in the current day. The Senior Management team is committed to driving the core values of “we care we deliver”, and these are values developed in consultation with the workforce at large. The core values are considered in all key business decisions, whether they relate to the employees, stakeholders, the community, or business assets. The expectation of Bloomfield is that advice on its legal obligations must also consider the broader impact of social conscience in meeting the core values.

A decision made by Bloomfield is one that has not been taken lightly, and will have considered the “impact” as a whole. Its treatment and respect of its people and the community is representative of its roots as a family business, and whilst the business has grown to now be a large employer and supporter of the community, it has not lost the family feel. Whilst I was not involved in the current application I can say from my experience that it would have been assessed and balanced and would not have been made if it had not passed the core value test.

Approval of the application currently before the Department will enable Bloomfield to continue operating in accordance with its business plans, and will maintain the current workforce and support to the community. The application has my endorsement and full support.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Cairns