

From: Ihlein, Mark [mailto:mihlein@singleton.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 4 December 2015 12:04 PM
To: Hamish Aiken
Subject: Exhibition Notice - Rix's Creek Mine Extension Project (SSD 6300) - Singleton council
Interim submission

Hi Hamish,

Please find following a submission on behalf of Singleton Council in respect of the Rix's Creek Mine Extension Project.

- The Rix's Creek Mine Operation is the closest mine to the Singleton town ship, located to the north west of the town. The Operations have not attracted any significant level of community concern and are regarded as being well managed.
- The proponent has regularly briefed Council on the Project.
- The Project is proposing to move away from Singleton and to extend the life of operations for a further 21 years with an average extraction rate of 2.8Mtpa ROM.
- The Project also anticipates the prospect of increasing production to 4.5Mtpa ROM in the event it's sister mine in the Maitland area closes to enable meeting contracted tonnages and potentially employing some additional personnel.
- The mine design would allow for the future access to an underground resource past open cut operations. It is understood the possible underground mine would require separate approval at a time in the future.
- Consent is also being sought to place overburden in an area currently outside the mining lease which is likely to reduce visual impacts, with lower dump elevations, and improved noise level and air quality impacts.
- Whilst the Council has no significant issues of concern it is important that the noise and air quality impacts described in the EA are comprehensively assessed by the technical experts in these areas to validate the modelling.
- Council is currently considering a Planning Proposal seeking to rezone land to residential in North Singleton, west of Bridgman Road and north of Gardner Circuit . While it is acknowledged mining operations are moving away from Singleton it is not clear from the EA the extent of, if any, noise impact on this area having regard to future residential land uses.
- It is acknowledged that the existing visual environment along the New England traversed is impacted the current operations. The proposal will continue to impact within this corridor, however it is considered that the proposed progressive screen planting seeks to minimise impact in this regard. The EA notes that that two residences to the south of the project area, located in Maison Dieu Road, will be visually impacted, however this will be mitigated by progressive screen planting along with rehabilitation.
- There is a significant discussion being held with the mining community regarding end use of mine sites and particularly final land forms and voids. As this is an ongoing discussion with industry being an active participant, it is requested that any conditions are flexible in order to enable adaptive end of mine planning which is responsive to community and industry positions over time.
- It is noted that the project will deliver a significant net social and economic benefit to the Singleton Local Government area.

Regards

Mark Ihlein
Director Planning and Sustainable Environment Group
Singleton Council

