

27th July 2020

Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney, NSW 2000

Rix's Creek North Mine - Landform and Blasting Frequency Modification (EXH-2932)

Dear Sir/Madam,

WesTrac NSW would like to register their support for the Rix's Creek North Mine - Landform and Blasting Frequency Modification - (EXH-2932). When approved this modification will ensure the existing operation continues to generate employment and maintain the financial, community and environmental benefits that coal mining provides for the local, state and federal environs.

WesTrac are the Caterpillar dealer for NSW and the ACT, and we directly employ over 1300 people in NSW, of whom approximately 1150 are employed outside the Sydney metropolitan area. Our workforce includes professional, trades and support staff, working in the mining and construction industries. We also have a large apprenticeship training program, helping develop the tradespeople of the future. The mining operation at Rix's Creek North, has been a factor in our ability to expand our workforce, to provide onsite support, field service, workshops parts and administrative activities in Singleton Local Government area, in addition to our other sites at Newcastle.

The Bloomfield Group (Bloomfield) are a major WesTrac customer and we have extensive engagements with them at their surface operations in NSW. In addition to direct employment opportunities, WesTrac has continued to invest in high end technology to support Bloomfield and our other mining customers. In the last 12 months we have spent \$15m on capital equipment to expand our technical support capacity to our mining customers. Approval of the Rix's Creek North modification, will provide us with the certainty to continue to make these investments and provide ongoing skilled employment opportunities in regional NSW.

WesTrac also support the ongoing role of high quality thermal and coking coals from NSW in meeting the demands of export markets, in the developed and developing economies across Asia.

The coal from the Rix's Creek North Mine will be crucial in powering the High Efficiency Low Emission (HELE) power plants that are providing the necessary balance of affordable energy and low carbon emissions. WesTrac supports the move towards a low carbon future, and the operation at Rix's Creek North is a key step in the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Yours faithfully,



Greg Graham
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