

29 July 2020.

Director – Resource Assessments, Planning and Assessment,  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment,  
Locked Bag 5022,  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124.

RE: Rix's Creek North Modification 9.

**ATTN: Director- Resource Assessments, Planning and Assessment.**

Dear Director,

My name is Chris Knight, I am an environmental scientist with a Master Degree with Distinction in Environmental Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Science (Geology) from the University of Newcastle. I have over 20 years coal mining experience and two and a half (2 ½) years' experience as a senior environmental regulator with the NSW Government. I am also currently studying towards a Master in Environmental Law.

I write in strong support of the Rix's Creek North Modification 9 MP 08\_0102.

I would like to provide the following opinions and thoughts for your consideration of the Rix's Creek MOD 9 Project as a resident of New South Wales;

I have been involved with the Rix's Creek Mine (RCM) since March 2015 as either a Senior Compliance Officer for the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)- Resource Assessments, or as the Environmental Manager for the Bloomfield Group responsible for Rix's Creek Mine.

I submit this to you as a resident of NSW who has a working knowledge of the Bloomfield Group from "both sides of the fence". During my time as a senior environmental compliance officer with NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), I was at times the assigned officer responsible for regulation under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979), for all coal mines within the Hunter Valley and Central Coast which held a State Planning Consent. I note this to demonstrate my experience to make the following statements.

In my opinion the Bloomfield Group manage their operations in accordance with environmental best practice. This includes reduction of dust to minimise air quality impacts, modifying or ceasing night time operations to minimise noise impacts to the surrounding community and postponing blasting when the environmental conditions are not favourable.

Rix's Creek Mine utilise a state of the art forecasting system for air quality, noise and blasting. Prior to joining the Environmental team at RCM I reviewed this system for use at another mine site I was working at. At that time the system was being developed by Rix's Creek Mine in conjunction with Todoroski Air Sciences and Terrock Blasting Consultants. I also reviewed this system later as the Senior Compliance officer for DPIE. At both times I

was impressed with the system and the way that the mine uses the information and proactively modifies its operation based on the forecast. For example the mine uses the information from the model to guide where the noise management personnel should be located within the surrounding areas based on the predicted enhancement.

As a previous senior compliance officer responsible for all mines in the Hunter and Newcastle Coalfields, the dust management practices used at Rix's Creek Mine exceed environmental best practice. Rix's Creek Mine commonly use water carts to soak dig faces, to actively reduce dust from loading operations, and operate an extra water cart above their general requirements.

From my personal observations, the Bloomfield Group hold a strong commitment to Environmental Management and Compliance. It is my observation that the company has always been willing to discuss issues with regulators and notify regulators when issues arise.

I have now worked at Rix's Creek Mine for well over two and a half years (2 ½) and have become part of the Rix's Creek family. I have met some fantastic people all dedicated to safe, efficient and environmentally responsible mining. I am proud to be employed by an Australian Mining Company.

Approval of the Rix's Creek North Modification 9 will provide the following benefits;

- A more functional final landform with the provision of micro relief which will be more aesthetically pleasing to surrounding neighbours.
- Change to the location of trees over pasture providing a more functional area for grazing over gently undulating pasture areas aligned to the approved final landuse.
- Return of environmental water upon final rehabilitation by providing micro relief and drainage in comparison to the current approved flat landform.
- Decrease the risk of blasting impacts by allowing more blasts when environmental conditions are favourable.
- Reduction in procedural delays to allow ongoing exploration as required.

**I support the Rix's Creek North Modification 9.**

I declare that I have not made any political donations in the previous two years.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Knight. MEnvMgt, BSc(Geol), MAIG, JP.  
As a resident of New South Wales.