

I would like to begin by paying my respect to the local Indigenous Wanaruah people, the traditional custodians of this land where we are meeting upon today.

Good morning Independent Planning Commission and the public (both those here to support the project and those here to Oppose the project) we all play an important role in ensuring this project meets both the ethical and regulators requirements.

My name is Dean Watts, I am a fitter and representative of the Bloomfield Group and I am here to speak in support of SSD6300 Rixs Creek Project.

I have worked for The Bloomfield group for over 10 years, in which time I have seen Agriculture, Childcare, law, Apprentices, Fabrication, Teaching and Allied Health Professionals just to name a few, that have flourished over the years since the beginning of Rixs Creek. Families have travelled from various parts of Australia, to be apart of The Bloomfield Groups Rixs Creek project considering the strong history, the Monday to Friday roster and being that The Bloomfield Group is 100% Australian owned.

More specifically, in reflection looking in at my own life and the impact The Bloomfield Group has had on my career and achievements so far. Of which, my fiancé and I, recently started a childcare centre which has been a success due to the Monday- Friday roster, where I was able inject both capital and time into the project. If this extension doesn't get approved, I fear that we will have to move in search of more work. Potentially crippling the longevity of our Childcare Centre. This Indirectly affects many families that must search for additional care, which for those of you who have children, understand how hard it is for a child to adapt to a new environment. I also fear that I will not be able to continue to run and volunteer at our local men's group. Where we help men of all ages with various mental health and life challenges. This is extremely rewarding work, in which our goal is to expand our reach to prevent suicide among men.

I'm a strong advocate for the project if it meets regulation. These standards are in place for the benefit of the community. From what I have read in the report, the Rixs Creek SSD6300 project meets such requirements. So, as far as I'm

concerned, we shouldn't have to continue to wait to gain approval with a cloud of uncertainty in the workforce, which continues to impact our mental health.

As for the ethical or social requirements of the Singleton community. Majority of the workforce at Rixs Creek are local to the area. This means that any potential negative impact Rixs Creek has on the community, is directly affecting the employees living in the area. The point being that, the workforce is in control of the dust and noise. The inspectors have shed light on the fact, that Rixs Creek is by far the best at dust control. We have the best water cart to square metre ratio in the Hunter Valley. We are leading the way, and so we should be. I understand that people may believe the closer the mine to a community, the more likely the dust comes from that mine. However, statistics 101; correlation does not mean causation. Those in the community concerned about the dust, focus your attention and energy at the baron farm lands out Central West NSW. The agriculture industry is far less regulated. We are in control of the dust on our site.

Thank you for your time and attention. Also, a big thanks to the Public that have shown there in support of, and those raising their concerns. Again, we all play a vital role in the project.

Thank you

Dean Watts