Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in support of the Rix’s Creek South Continuation Project. As an employee of the Bloomfield Group working at Rix’s Creek, the approval of this project is important to me for the obvious reason of continued employment. As well as my own personal reasons I believe this project has benefits for the wider community as well.

Firstly, Bloomfield is an Australian owned company so the profits are staying in Australia, not heading overseas like they would with any other multinational company. Also being locally owned they have more of a stake in the community and hence more incentive to operate in a socially responsible way. By this I mean in the way they operate to comply with environmental requirements through to how they employ workers directly instead of utilizing casual labour hire like most other mining companies in the valley.

Bloomfield is very active in supporting local charities and causes, but I believe the greatest thing they do for the local community is employ locals. From a recent toolbox talk we had at work it was said that 70% of the workforce at Rix’s Creek came from Singleton and the surrounding areas of Cessnock and Maitland. 33% of us live in the Singleton Local Government Area. Thinking about my own household spending in the last few years (which includes building a new house, buying a new car, weekly groceries, fuels and so on – all purchased locally), when I thing about all my other co-workers spending their money locally in similar ways then we must contribute a huge amount to the local economy. Thinking back to the mining downturn I remember what the lack of mining wages did to the local economy and property prices in Singleton. It was devastating!

I have commonly heard anti-mining advocates talk about the need for the diversification of the Singleton economy (which I totally support). But until we have government policy actively encouraging businesses to leave Sydney and move to regional areas we need companies like The Bloomfield Group to continue supporting our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for this project.

Kind Regards

Joel Wolfenden