

# Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield group

We were established in 2010 to help represent the views of residents of Mayfield - an inner-city harbour side suburb of Newcastle; and also the views of many in neighbouring inner city harbour side suburbs of Newcastle.

We have several hundred members and supporters.

## Submission concerning **Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project SSD 6300**

To  
Mary O'Kane, Chair,  
NSW Independent Planning Commission of NSW

[ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au)

Commissioners,

### **We oppose this application on the following grounds:**

1. Air pollution at Camberwell and North West Singleton regularly exceeds the national standards. The assessment of air pollution from Rix's Creek Mine has been identified as inadequate by the Department of Planning after the publication of their final assessment report stating the opposite.

An additional 72 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year is inexcusable in this time of climate emergency.

A very reasonable condition of consent for Rix's Creek would be for the IPC to require the proponent to produce an Export Management Plan for the mine that demonstrates that the customers of the coal exported from Rix's creek are parties to the Paris Agreement, or that they have policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise be similar to those required of them if they were a party to the Paris Agreement.

We think it is very important for the IPC to make the Paris Agreement and global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions part of the framework for this NSW coal mine approval process.

- 2.The cumulative impact of open cut mine disturbance over approx. 2,000 ha land has not been adequately assessed for water, final voids, biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural heritage, air and noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions or for negative social and health impacts.
- 3.The impact of loss of key connective habitat for threatened species such as the Squirrel Glider has not been assessed. The biodiversity offset arrangements are incomplete and will not offset the loss of landscape habitat connectivity across the upper Hunter Valley floor.
- 4.Many assessments are incomplete eg for the second cut and cover tunnel under the New England Highway. It is inappropriate for these to be done after approval.
- 5.There is no consistency of policy application by the Department of Planning. The Rix's Creek mine expansion has not been assessed under the current Policy for Industrial Noise 2017 but has been assessed under the regulations of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.
- 6.The people of Camberwell village have not been protected by property acquisition rights
- 7.It is inappropriate for the closest mine to Singleton to be assessed under achievable noise criteria. The proposed criteria are too high and will result in health impacts.
- 8.The cumulative health costs of mining in the Upper Hunter have not been included in the costs benefits analysis. The public benefit of the project does not outweigh the public costs.
- 9.The Upper Hunter is now over saturated with open cut coal mining impacts. No additional impacts can be tolerated. No more final voids should be approved.

**10. The cumulative impacts from this additional mining** have not been examined as to how residents on the extended coal rail line from Singleton to Newcastle will be affected, nor how the residents of Newcastle will be affected.

Adding thousands of extra tonnes of coal, and more train and ship movements to the already vast tonnages shipped from the port of Newcastle must have an increased impact on Humans and wildlife.

### **Background**

Rix's Creek open cut coal mine is 5km north-west of Singleton. This application would continue mining 3.6 million tonnes of coal per year until 2040.

There is significant land use conflict with the expansion of Singleton town ship to the west.

John L Hayes              Dated 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Convenor

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