

RIXS CREEK EXPANSION

Bob Murphy,
Plant Operator

at Bloomfield mine East Maitland.

I've worked for the Bloomfield group for 15 years.

As a mineworker, I know the importance of the rixs creek expansion to local families and Singelton community. This will not only secure hundreds of mining jobs, it will give a big boost to local small business like cafes, newsagents, engineering, car dealerships and other family businesses. I know of one takeaway shop where they're been getting workers overtime meals for approximately 20 years.

They buy all their cars from a local Toyota dealership for as long as I can remember, the same Tyre company for 20 years, all from the hunter valley. They have always supported local charities like Cancer Council, PCYC, Mal-Well, Maitland Football, and many more.

I've worked in the hunter mining Industry for 24 years for many different mines and companies including at rixs creek. What I have found over this time is the Bloomfield group would be the most community minded company I've ever worked for. I think the reason for this is they are an Australian company with the owners living right here in the Hunter. We recently went through a long process of re-visiting our company values, and we came up with WE CARE/WE DELIVER, which means environment community, Best practice and compliance. The Bloomfield group employs 600 people, 65 at Bloomfield mine, 300 at Rixs Creek and the rest in engineering companies. Without the Rixs Creek extension these local jobs will be gone, that's 600 families with no work.

On the environment I've watched them go far beyond then anyone I previously worked for. If there's noise problems we stop, if it's too dusty we stop. Their Rehabilitation work is second to none. Where I'm currently working we have some 20-year-old rehabilitation, and been a keen bushwalker and birdwatcher. I can tell you that I've seen more wildlife on the minesite that I've

seen in most bushland I've walked in. I've often taken overseas friends here to look at the native wildlife. This year alone I've seen echidnas, goanna's, snakes black brown and carpet, kangaroos, falcons, parrots and wedge tail eagles. Which I can only put down to good rehabilitation and control of feral animals giving the native wildlife Sanctuary to breed in.

One last thing I often hear people against mining say we don't need them, but everyone in this room is relying on mining, your car your mobile phone even your jewellery, it's all made out of mining products. Mining at worlds best practice should be a positive not a negative. We all want to live in a town with a community, but a community needs people and people need jobs.

Thank you for your time.