

## IPC Submission – Shane Davey 29 / 06 / 2019

I thank the commissioners for the opportunity to speak and respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of the land where we meet.

With the recent determination to continue operations at Rix's Creek for only a short nine months to March 2020, the workers and the overwhelming majority in the Singleton community are justifiably anxious about the positive progress and outcome of this meeting and the proposal at hand.

As stated in other submissions, the application is seeking approval to extend the existing mining operations until 2038, to increase peak production and recover an additional 32 million tonnes of coal allowing the remaining resource to be extracted.

That sounds very much like a standard Mining continuation application, and the straight forward wording, while necessarily descriptive and precise, falls a long way short of what the proposal fully means to this community and how the determination should be judged.

The Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project should also read that they are seeking permission approval to extend a decades long tradition of best practice and community pride. A decades long commitment to people. A tradition of proud community support, and a continuation of striving to be the standard bearers of how to do things right in a complex and challenging industry.

In my opinion Rix's Creek is not a coal business it is a people business. This is company that fully understands that people and the community are the primary reason that they are in business and are successful in business. I believe that being a family company that operates on family values, the big decisions and actions are taken from a proud personal perspective as much as regulatory or corporate. In my opinion this adds considerable additional, if somewhat intangible commitment and better outcomes. However, when the sum of all those parts and the eventual outcomes are analysed, those intangibles become very tangible indeed.

At a local level I have never had a or heard a negative word about this mine or company, not even once in ten or so years I have been active in this community. Not from their people, not from the community. Not from other businesses. That is unique in Hunter mining in my experience. They conduct themselves with rare and outstanding integrity.

I have never known a mining company that takes its obligations more seriously than this one. Be it potential adverse effects on near neighbours, Singleton or the environment, they work to do it to the highest possible standards 24 hours a day 7 days a week. They have the same approach to the futures and welfare of all who work there too. They don't cut corners and 'just enough' is not good enough for this proud family owned company. Doing their absolute best has always been their goal.

When workers I know have secured full time roles, as a whole they feel they have secured a spot within the most coveted mining organization, and work on the most coveted mine site in the region, if not the country.

Talking to the people from Rix's Creek, it's the genuine and heartfelt way they share their story and concerns that shines through, but it's far from only company people that are as supportive as they are worried. Many community groups couldn't do what they do without them. When asked to help they rarely say no, and in fact, jump in to help often before being asked. When I personally went through some difficult times a few years ago, I can say that without doubt I wouldn't have gotten through it without the guidance and support of certain Rix's people.

While I am a strong supporter of new mines (and the economic activity and jobs that come with them) that are well planned being greenlighted and developed, I am an even bigger supporter of sensibly planned existing operations extending their productive life. It allows for less overall development and disturbance on already mining affected land and continued stability for their workforces and community.

Waiting until the eleventh hour is not an option. We came within a week of hundreds of families losing their livelihoods and a great Australian company being resigned to history. We cannot allow this project to be caught up in activist related chaos or 'red tape' delays.

It doesn't matter if you are a supporter or detractor of mining, the fact is that this unique mine makes an enormous contribution at a local community, state, national and even international level and it goes far beyond money. This will be the case for the foreseeable future and Rix's Creek should be a major and positive part of that future.

Rix's Creek really is a mine of the highest standards and should be positively supported to continue the great work they do with their workforce, the Singleton community, and NSW mining in general. They genuinely are a showcase operator for the mining industry on best practice and integrity.