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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

TRANSCRIPT IN CONFIDENCE

O/N H-1022142

INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING WITH SINGLETON COUNCIL

RE: RIX'S CREEK COAL MINE MOD 10

PANEL:

**PROF MARY O'KANE
ANDREW HUTTON
TONY PEARSON**

ASSISTING PANEL:

**DENNIS LEE
DIANA MITCHELL**

COUNCIL:

**MARY-ANNE CRAWFORD
MARK IHLEIN**

LOCATION:

**IPC OFFICES
LEVEL 3, 201 ELIZABETH STREET
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES**

DATE:

11.33 AM, FRIDAY, 10 MAY 2019

PROF M. O’KANE: So this is the meeting with Singleton Council and in beginning it, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land that you’re meeting on in Singleton and that we’re meeting on here in the centre of Sydney and pay my respects to their elders past and present and the future. As you know, the Bloomfield
5 Group is the applicant here and is seeking approval to extend an approved period of coal extraction at Rix’s Creek South which is due to expire on 24 June this year and that extension is for nine months.

The purpose of this modification is to allow for the continuation of mining at Rix’s
10 Creek South while the assessment of a new State Significant Development application SSD 6300 will extend – is an application to extend mining operations for a further 21 years and that has to be finalised and determined. My name is Mary O’Kane. I’m chair of this particular panel and of the Commission. Joining me are my fellow commissioners Andrew Hutton and Tony Pearson and Dennis Lee is here
15 from the Secretariat. In the interests of openness and transparency and to ensure full capture of information, today’s meeting is being recorded and a full transcript will be produced and made available on the Commission’s website.

The meeting is one part of the Commission’s decision-making process. It is taking
20 place at the preliminary stage of the process and will form one of several sources of information upon which the Commission will base its determination. It’s important for the commissioners to ask questions and for us to clarify issues that we consider appropriate. If we ask a question and you’re not in a position to answer, feel free to take it on notice and to provide additional information in writing which will then be
25 put up on our website. When you – well, it’s – when you speak, could you just say who is speaking so it gets picked up on the transcript. So I guess it’s over to you. Is there things you would like to raise and then we can ask any questions?

MR M. IHLEIN: Hi, Mary. It’s Mark Ihlein, Director of Planning and
30 Infrastructure. How are you going?

PROF O’KANE: Nice to hear your voice.

MR IHLEIN: Same. And, obviously, we have also with us Mary-Anne Crawford,
35 our Manager of Development and Environment as well.

PROF O’KANE: Great.

MR IHLEIN: And that was the little bit of laughter we heard earlier. We were just
40 musing on our lack of skills when it comes to IT-related matters. Commissioners, we really haven’t got any issues with this proposal. We totally understand the background behind it. We understand and are fully aware and cognisant of the significant application that’s currently afoot and have been heavily involved with that over – going back – been on foot for a couple of years now, I think, Mary-Anne, yes.
45 So from Singleton Council’s point of view – I guess the other thing to make comment on is that we work in an environment where the Rix’s Creek Coalmine

from Singleton Council's point of view, doesn't – so far as our community making comments to us doesn't raise issues of concern from an operational point of view on a regular basis.

5 We're not aware that there are technical breaches, if you like, in terms of the other regulators but certainly from our point of view, we don't on a regular basis at all feel any concerns from our community. We have an operational consultative committee which similarly doesn't feel any significant concerns and is well-informed. So moving forward, we don't find that the proposed extension is problematic from a
10 community point of view or from the council's point of view.

PROF O'KANE: Right. Thank you very much. Could I just ask my colleagues – any questions?

15 MR A. HUTTON: No.

PROF O'KANE: No. I don't think we have any questions. I mean, we just wanted to make sure we had your views and what you've raised has been very comprehensive. So I think probably that's it. Dennis, is there anything else we need
20 from the council? No. And sadly we're not meeting at the council chambers this time because you've got things on which is good, means your facilities are being used, but - - -

MR IHLEIN: It does.
25

MS M. CRAWFORD: Yes, yes, which is good.

PROF O'KANE: It is good, yes. So – but, hopefully, you will see us for other meetings for other panels because we're very grateful for you and other local
30 governments being willing to have us hold meetings at the facilities.

MR IHLEIN: Yes, no problems. No problems.

PROF O'KANE: Good. All right. Well, Thank you very much. After all that
35 wrestling with technology on both sides, it has been a short meeting.

MR IHLEIN: No, look, we understand and recognise it's important to have the conversation and transparency around our deliberations on these matters so it's no issue for us to be involved and have those active conversations.
40

PROF O'KANE: Well, thank you, and we always like dealing with Singleton Council. So that's good. Okay. Maybe see you – okay. Bye.

MR IHLEIN: Okay. Cheers.
45

MS CRAWFORD: Thank you. Thank you.

RECORDING CONCLUDED

[11.38 am]