



08 May 2019

Mr Howard Reed
Director – Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment

By email: Howard.Reed@planning.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Megan.Dawson@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Reed,

**Rix's Creek South Coal Mine Modification 10 (DA 49/94 MOD10)
Request for Additional Information**

The Independent Planning Commission (**Commission**) has reviewed the Department of Planning and Environment's (**Department**) Assessment Report for the Rix's Creek South Coal Mine Modification 10 (the **Project**).

The Commission is seeking a response to several questions relating to the modification. The response to these questions will assist the Commission in strengthening their understanding of the context, the conditions and the requirements that represent mandatory considerations.

Background

To understand fully the operational context of the mine and make an informed decision on the modification, the Commission has the following two questions:

1. The Commission would like to get an understanding of whether the timeframe for extension is adequate, or whether further modifications may be required to continue the mine's operations before the SSD assessment is finalised.

Would the Department please indicate how the 9-month extension was determined? Is this based on a timeframe to ensure the continuation project (SSD 6300) will be determined prior to the extension expiration date of 24 March 2020?

2. The Commission understands the Rix's Creek North Coal Mine uses the coal handling processing plant and train loading facilities at the Rix's Creek South Coal Mine. What would the impact of the expiry of the coal extraction period for the Project mean to the coal handling and train loading facilities?

Conditions

The Commission has two questions to inform the development or modification of conditions around the Project as this modification offers the opportunity to update plans and rectify any non-conformances.

3. Would the Department, through the Resources Regulator, please confirm that the Mine Closure Plan (required under Condition 16D) is consistent with current policy and industry best practice?

4. Can the Department please confirm if there are any outstanding issues requiring mitigation or acquisition under the VLAMP, or other mechanisms?

Economic analysis

The Commission is required to assess the economic impacts of the development under s4.15(1)(b) of the EP & A Act.

5. Is the Department able to confirm if a cost benefit analysis has been prepared for the extension, or any other analysis that may indicate the potential cost benefit of the extension?

The Commission would appreciate the information be provided at the meeting at Friday 10 May 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Lee, Team Leader on [REDACTED] or dennis.lee@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Regards,



Sam McLean

Executive Director

Independent Planning Commission NSW Secretariat