

To Independent Planning Commission

Re Rix's Creek Coalmine extension Application. August 2019, OBJECTION 4.8.2019

From: Bev Atkinson

At the previous Singleton hearing re Rix's Creek extension not long ago, I was struck by the extremity of the points against. It was clear to me that refusal would be the only tenable case. If that result had emerged however, I would not expect another Singleton hearing. At the first hearing, supporters gave some flimsy arguments, re 'jobs', the usual. We know there's more jobs in renewables now, and a greater economic boost. Our miners generally have jobs to go back to.

Objectors put hard evidence including dust cumulation, water loss, land loss, agriculture loss, habitat loss, community loss, and sad evidence of cumulative effects of added mines on our health. One speaker nearly fainted from her chemo effects before speaking. The cancer cluster is very close to all of us now. The economic losses are wiping out farmers already. It's clear that property acquisition rights are not broad enough and do not compensate for a loss of living. Tourism is shot already.

Since then, we hear that Rix's Creek mine so far, has failed on remediation. The planned void remediations are not happening, and the planned final voids are unacceptable so near town.

The case for closing existing fossil fuel mining contracts is put by Steffen, as a necessary part of prolonging our last human life on earth. There must be no more contracts, lengthening contracts, or planning more mines. Those acts are unacceptable to the public, in the common interest.

Interest is very interesting. A keenness for the common good is not respected. Compare this to the huge respect given by Government, most judges, media and officials, to Monetary Self Interest. That is the expected position purchased by any salary, as acknowledged by mutual understanding.

The people not thus purchased can easily be excluded and their views ignored; they are rarely rich, they do not speak necessarily on their own behalf, there are fewer of them by a long way, and quite often they are tired, ill; they may be disadvantaged in ways which hamper their presentations.

As one of those, I know there is only one side to be on, for life to be worthwhile.

That is the side of truth as I see it: effort to promote health and genuine wellbeing of all and Earth.

If the IPC finds proven data showing the objectors' case to be mistaken, wrong, flawed, badly researched, or irrelevant to some overriding concern of the Nation or the World, by all means let me know. Then I will change my position accordingly, on the extension of the mine at Rix's Creek.

Meanwhile, it should be refused without hesitation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit,

yours sincerely,

Bev Atkinson