



NOTES FROM SITE VISIT

This meeting is part of the determination process.

Meeting note taken by: Dennis Lee

Date: Monday 29 August
2019

Time: 3:30 pm

Project: Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project (SSD 6300)

Meeting Place: Singleton Civic Centre then proceeded by bus to Rix's Creek South Coal Mine

Attendees:

Commission Members:

Mary O'Kane (Chair), Andrew Hutton, Tony Pearson

Commission Secretariat:

Dennis Lee (Team Leader), Callum Firth (Student Planner)

Counsel Assisting:

Rachel Mansted

Applicant:

Brett Lewis (Managing Director / CEO, The Bloomfield Group), (Geoff Moore (Chief Development Officer), Chris Knight (Environment Manager), Chris Moy (General Manager Technical Services/Development), Chris Quinn (Environmental Advisor)

Meeting Purpose:

For the Commission to view the Rix's Creek South mine site and operations.

The Commission met the Applicant at the Singleton Civic Centre (12 Queen St Singleton). The applicant drove the Commission by bus to the Rix's Creek South coal mine.

Stop 1: Current rehabilitation, north pit dump

- The Commission viewed the rehabilitated woodland that would be re-disturbed under Option 1 in place of the Western Overburden Emplacement Area (OEA). The area is woodland, with native grassland towards the middle where the canopy opens up.
- The Applicant stated the rehabilitated woodland is now an established woodland with natural processes taking place. It is attracting species and there is secondary recruitment of species in the form eucalypt and acacia trees grown from trees derived from the planted woodland. White ants nests were observed.
- The Applicant stated that re-disturbance would impact this area of rehabilitated land of approximately 20 ha.
- The Applicant stated that the established woodland is a good news story for industry demonstrating successful rehabilitation.
- The Applicant commented on the Resources Regulator's recent finding in the rehabilitation areas, and the Applicant agreed to share its response to the Resources Regulator's findings.

Stop 2: New disturbance area, proposed western out of pit dump

- The Commission viewed the current natural surrounds of the proposed western out of pit dump (overburden emplacement area). The area is predominately wooded grassland with a steep incline down from the viewing position.
- The Applicant stated that the western out of pit dump would flatten the land. The top would be a dome, with drainage running across the land. The Applicant considers that this final land form is better for future agricultural purposes than the current landform.



- The Applicant stated that the biodiversity offsets (credits) involved with re-disturbing the north pit dump rehabilitation area (for both Option 1 and Option 2) were less than those required for the Western Overburden Emplacement area.
- The Applicant stated that noise and dust impact assessments were essentially the same for Option 1, Option 2 and the EIS.
- The Applicant stated western out of pit dump is proposed to be 160 RL, other pit dumps are to the current 140 RL.
- The Applicant stated that the two closest receivers are both approximately 5-6 km away and are both currently afforded acquisition rights for air quality and noise under the VLAMP.

At the conclusion of the site visit, the Applicant dropped the Commission back at the Singleton Civic Centre.

Meeting closed at: 5:00 pm