

# Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project

Project Newsletter November 2016

## Rix's Creek Mine

The Rix's Creek Mine is an open cut coal mine 5km north-west of Singleton which has been in continuous operation since 1990. It currently produces 2.8 million Run of Mine tonnes per annum and currently employs 220 people on the site primarily from local and regional areas. The mine is part of the Bloomfield Group which is a 100% Australian family-owned company based in the Hunter Valley.

## Continuation of Mining Project – Update

We're seeking approvals to continue operations for the next 21 years, which would see the mine continue to gradually move in a westward direction away from Singleton. Since our last newsletter our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been on exhibition and a range of responses have been received from a variety of stakeholders.

## Integra – Rix's Creek North Open Cut

In December 2015 Bloomfield finalised the purchase of the assets of the former Integra Open Cut Mine that adjoins Bloomfield Rix's Creek Open Cut operation. The Integra Open Cut Mine is now named Rix's Creek North Open Cut. Due to the proximity of the two operations Bloomfield has been able to apply a consistent approach to environmental management across both sites to minimise potential impacts. Bloomfield's operations have also been able to benefit from this consolidation through, for example, centralised fleet management and integrated monitoring capacity.

As a result of the purchase Bloomfield will now be able to satisfy their future production requirement utilising both sites. This has meant that the peak production proposed in the Continuation EIS (2.7M tonnes per year saleable coal) has been able to be reduced (2.2M tonnes per year saleable coal). The potential operational impact will therefore also be reduced from the levels indicated in the EIS. The Continuation Project Response to Submissions (RTS) report includes revised assessments to account for the reduction in maximum production levels.

## Response to Submissions

### Air Quality

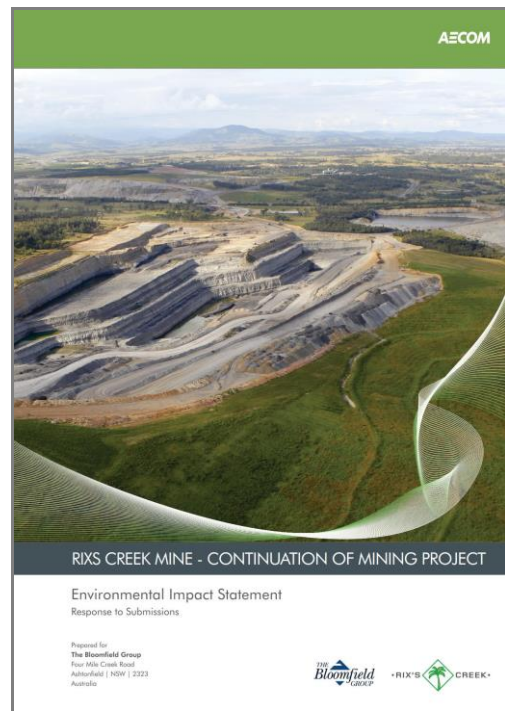
The Air Quality modelling results presented in the EIS have been updated to account for the revised mine schedule and to address comments received during the EIS exhibition. This included confirming the location of all relevant households and their potential level of impact. The revised assessment concluded that the revised mining schedule would

result in a reduced level of potential impact over the life of the Project.

In addition to the benefits resulting from the acquisition of the Integra Open Cut Mine, Bloomfield is committed to the application of mitigation and management measures outlined in the EIS including the implementation of a predictive modelling tool to predict and limit dust generation.

### Noise

Similar to the Air Quality Impact Assessment, the Noise Impact Assessment included revised modelling to account for the amended mining schedule. Again it was found that the impacts would be reduced from those presented in the EIS, particularly for those households in the Singleton Heights area. Regardless, Bloomfield will still maintain the proposed level of noise monitoring and management activities it has previously committed to. In particular Bloomfield will continue the use of its predictive noise model with the aim of proactively managing operations to minimise noise.



Response to Submission Report Cover

### Ecological Impacts

To ensure Project provides an appropriate level of ecological offsetting further work was undertaken. This work included reinforcing Bloomfield's intention to provide land offsets in accordance with the Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment. Additionally, Bloomfield is committed to providing an alternative means of land offsets via existing pathways until the Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment is in operation.

**Economic**

In order to clearly demonstrate the economic impacts of the Project and account for the revised mining schedule KPMG has revised their economic assessment. Notably, the acquisition of the Integra Open Cut Mine has allowed for centralised mine fleet management and other efficiencies, resulting in cost savings which have improved the Project cost-benefit analysis from that presented in the EIS.

**Visual Impacts & Mine Rehabilitation**

A number of submissions requested additional information regarding how the proposed landform would appear over the life of the Project. The RTS includes a range of visual montages to demonstrate the Project's proposed landform changes and progressive rehabilitation from key viewpoints in the local area. These highlight Bloomfield's proactive approach to rehabilitation both now and as proposed into the future.

**Voluntary Planning Agreement**

As part of the Project, Bloomfield has entered into in-principle agreement with Singleton Council regarding a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA). The VPA will outline Bloomfield's commitment for the provision of funds for community services and infrastructure, upon receipt of approval of the Project.

The in-principle agreement centres on Bloomfield assisting Singleton Council with improvements to the Alroy Oval area of Singleton Heights.

**Other Environmental Considerations**

A range of other amendments and additional information was also provided in response to questions from agencies and the community, including:

- Further explanation of diesel exhaust emissions and their assessment.
- Impact on future residential areas north of Singleton.
- Surface water / flooding – Additional assessment of flooding impacts on Rixs Creek and the immediate downstream environment.

**What Happens Next?**

Having submitted the Response to Submissions (which will be available on the DP&E website), the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) will undertake an assessment of the revised Project. Other government agencies will also undertake a review of the updated technical reports to ensure their questions regarding the Project have been adequately addressed.



DP&E will then complete their assessment of the Project and then refer it to the NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC). The PAC will undertake an independent review and determination.

The PAC may choose to hold a public meeting or public hearing to allow further stakeholder involvement in the decision making process. Information regarding this process will be posted on the DP&E and Bloomfield websites.

<p><b>Key Project Contacts</b></p> <p>Garry Bailey General Manager Mining Development</p> <p> 0407 938 003</p> <p> gbailey@bloomcoll.com.au</p> <p>John Hindmarsh Senior Environmental Officer</p> <p> 0427 436 285</p> <p> jhindmarsh@bloomcoll.com.au</p>	<p><b>Communication and Information</b></p> <p>We welcome your questions and comments about the Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project, as part of the ongoing stakeholder and community consultation.</p> <p>You can access further information via the Bloomfield group website, or by using the details below.</p> <p> <a href="http://www.bloomcoll.com.au/operations">www.bloomcoll.com.au/operations</a></p> <p> <a href="mailto:info@bloomcoll.com.au">info@bloomcoll.com.au</a></p> <p> PO Box 4, East Maitland NSW 2323</p>
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