

RIXS CREEK NORTH & RIXS CREEK SOUTH EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING: 12/02/2020

PRESENT: Independent Chairperson - Lisa Andrews
Community Representatives – Reg Eveleigh (RE), Patricia Bestic (PB) & Michelle Higgins (MH).

Company Representatives – Geoff Moore (GM), Chris Knight (CK), Chris Quinn (CQ), Damien Butler (DB) & Brad Donoghoe (BD).

APOLOGIES: Deidre Olofsson (DO), Brendon Clements (BC), Dave Moran (DM) & Councillor Sarah Lukeman (SL).

The meeting was formerly opened by LA at 9:35am at the Rixs Creek South Training Room.

- **Welcome**

- The Chair welcomed all attendance by stating the purpose of the extraordinary meeting, being the commencement of SSD 6300 - Continuation of Mining Project Approval.

- **Apologies**

- The Chair noted the apologies as listed above; stating that Council will be briefed separately.
- DB advised that BC was on leave and that BD was the Acting Mine Manager.

- **Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

- The Chair advised that there had been no change to her previous declaration; approved Independent Chairperson by DPIE and engaged by Bloomfield to chair the CCC.
- The Chair advised that following the new approval, committee members should consider whether their pecuniary interests may need to be updated, due to possible voluntary acquisition or mitigation rights. Forms were available at the meeting and will be emailed with the minutes.

PB arrived at 9:41am.

- **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

Action items

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Send copy to SL for internal distribution to Councillors (complete)	CK
2	Confirm date of extraordinary meeting at commencement of new consent (complete)	CK

- **Correspondence**

As per what was sent out with the meeting notice on 5/2/20:

- 25/10/19 - Email to members with the draft minutes from 8/5/19 for review
- 1/11/19 - Email to members with the finalised minutes.
- 1/11/19 – Letter to RE with the minutes
- 11/11/19 – Email from CK with the Rix's Creek South Continuation Project- Newsletter No.7, which was forwarded on to CCC members that day.
- 5/12/19 – Email received from GHD advising that they will be undertaking an independent environmental audit of the Rix's Creek South (RCS) mine operations, in accordance with DA 49/94 and seeking any input from the CCC for inclusion. This email was forwarded on to members on 11/12/19.
- 18/12/19 – Email to GHD providing feedback for inclusion in the IEA (DO, PB & SL)
- 20/1/20 – Email from CK advising that the Rix's Creek South Independent Environmental Audit 2019 was submitted to DPIE
- 28/1/20 – Email to CCC members proposing an extraordinary meeting on 12/2/20. Email responses received from community representatives.
- 5/2/20 – Email to CCC members confirming extraordinary meeting on 12/2/20 with agenda.

- **Briefing for the commencement of SSD 6300 - Continuation of Mining Project Approval**

- CK thanked the committee members for attending, and noted the importance of providing an update on SSD 6300. He noted when the approval of SSD 6300 was provided, and the work that has occurred since.
- CK noted the letter regarding notification of commencement of the Consent was submitted to DPIE on 10 February 2020. The letter noted operations under the consent would commence 24 February.
- CK gave an update on community communication. He confirmed 900 letters were hand delivered to any privately owned residence or buildings within 3km from the Project Boundary to offer a structural baseline inspection of the property.
- CK noted community communication included a copy of the "Mine Dust and You" information handout from NSW Health sent to all privately owned residents with acquisition or mitigation for dust in the area identified. This handout was also distributed to all existing mine owned tenants, where dust is predicted to be above the air quality criteria.
- CK noted all residents entitled to either acquisition and or mitigation had been contacted via registered mail.
- CK advised that correspondence had been sent to DPIE requesting the combination of the CCC. He also noted the request to combine a number of Management Plans for the new consent. He offered to provide further details on these plans.
- CK noted the work on the new Bushfire Management Plan (BMP). MH asked if the mine was required to consult with Singleton Council on this plan. CK said the mine was not required to do so, just the relevant agency (RFS). CK noted Management Plans can be reviewed by the CCC. He noted that current approved management plans are on the

website and that if requested the mine could print and send copies to CCC members if they wished.

- CK noted that new and or revised Management Plans as required by the new consent are currently being developed within the next 6 months which may be reviewed for consultation by the CCC. The Chair noted she would send the mine's Management Plans out for feedback, allowing up to 14 days for feedback. (Action)
- MH asked about the tenants on land that the mine owned. MH queried how they are considered in the Bushfire Management Plan. CK noted that the requirement for the BMP is only as required by the consent so does not consider tenants outside of the approved project area which would fall under RFS. CK advised of the establishment of fire breaks around external perimeter of the project.
- The Chair noted that sharing Management Plans for detailed feedback was not typical. The Chair noted the complexities in reviewing, considering and incorporating feedback and stressed that this was for consultation and feedback may not necessarily be included in the final document. The Chair noted previous discussions with the Department in terms of the CCC not being intended to go into the fine detail of documents like Management Plans.
- CK showed the Bushfire Management Plan on the meeting room screen. He noted the consultation with the Rural Fire Service that had occurred and was referenced in the Plan.
- CK noted other updates to the company website that had occurred, in accordance with the new consent. This included uploading of approval and EIS documents. CK indicated how to access the hyperlinks to government air quality and noise information, as well as contact details for NSW government complaint avenues. He showed the uploaded project approval and copies of the environmental assessments.
- CK provided the development of the workforce update and what this included. It covers items such as:
 - Induction presentation for all employees and contractors updated to include:
 - Compliance with Planning Approval requirements
 - Environmental obligations for all workers
 - Rehabilitation requirements
 - Aboriginal and European Heritage management requirements
- CK advised that the combined Rix's Creek Mining Operations Plan was approved on 7 February 2020 and is on the website. Further, the completion of an Independent Environmental Audit, which is available on the project website. In discussing findings of the audit, CK stated the administrative matters that needed to be addressed in terms of updates to some of the Management Plans, which were already planned to be addressed as a requirement of the new Consent.
- CK advised of the approved development layout and the mining areas that would operate upon commencement.

- PB noted the recent bypass presentation from Singleton Council. GM noted on the map where that would be located in relation to the mining land.

- **General Business**

- CK advised that Rix's Creek Mine is currently undertaking initial consultation with the CCC, Singleton Council and other Government Agencies in relation to a proposed project modification at Rix's Creek North. He gave some of the background information from the presentation, including the implementation of micro relief into the approved landform.
- MH requested further explanation on micro relief with CK providing MH with an overview.
- CK discussed further detail on the background, including with relation to previous owner - Vale.
- CK gave an overview of the overburden emplacement and potential blasting changes. The Chair asked about recent blasting complaints. CK confirmed that one recent enquiry about a blast had been received. This blast was reviewed and it was confirmed that was below the blast criteria limits.
- CK advised that the proponent is not increasing the number of blasts per week, but rather blasts per day when the conditions are right. He confirmed that this allows more blasts to occur under favourable conditions, and the mine can reduce blasts under less favourable conditions.
- CK noted the work internally to manage blasts in SE winds and how blasts are deferred to minimise impact on the community.
- CK then gave an overview of the timelines for submission of the modification remained to be confirmed.
- The Independent Planning Commission review was briefly discussed in terms of how submissions were reviewed, including the location the submissions come from.
- CK noted an upcoming site tour. The Independent Expert Scientific Committee were visiting in April, 2020.
- PB asked about acacia, noting it was once considered suitable and that now it is not. CK advised of the funds spent last year to remove these trees.
- The Chair asked that when timing of the modification was confirmed that this be communicated. (Action.)
- PB asked about biodiversity offset areas and the recent bushfires and if any fires started on mining land. PB noted offsets were locked up areas of land and queried how the fire management plans worked with the offset land. CK talked about how offset land is managed, including fire breaks, slashing and crash grazing where permitted. MH asked about excess timber piling up. GM noted stewardship sites have fire management plans. MH asked about aboriginal heritage and back burns.

PB left the meeting at 10:22am due to another engagement.

- The Chair asked about any other business items. RE asked about wildlife (goats and pigs). CK noted the mine had recommenced kangaroo and feral pest management. MH asked about what happens with Dingos. CQ advised that there are no dingos in the area only wild half breed type dogs.

Next Meeting

- The Chair confirmed the next meeting of the CCC would occur Wednesday 27 May 2020, commencing at 9.30am

The meeting closed at 10:28am, with the Chair thanking everyone for their attendance.

Action Items

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Distribute Management Plans to CCC Members	CK/Chair
2	Communicate MOD timings, once known	CK