

## **RIXS CREEK MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MEETING:** 27/05/2020

**PRESENT:** Chairperson - Lisa Andrews

Community Representatives –Patricia Bestic (PB), Councilor Sarah Lukeman (SL), Michelle Higgins (MH).

Company Representatives – Geoff Moore (GM), Chris Knight (CK), Chris Quinn (CQ), Damien Butler (DB) and Brendon Clements (BC).

**APOLOGIES:** Deidre Olofsson (DO), Dave Moran (DM) and Reg Eveleigh (RE).

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**The meeting was formerly opened at 9:33am. Due to site COVID-19 protocols, the CCC was held via video conference (Zoom).**

- **Welcome**

- The Chair opened the meeting at 9:35am. The Chair noted the challenges posed by COVID-19 and thanked all attendees for joining via Zoom.
- The Chair noted this meeting was the inaugural Rix's Creek Mine (RCM) meeting of the combined Rix's Creek North (RCN) and Rix's Creek South (RCS) CCC's.

- **Apologies**

- The Chair noted the apologies. RE, DM and DO were unable to join the meeting.

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

- The Chair made the required declarations about her role as Chair, noting no changes to declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests by members.

- **Business Arising from Previous Minutes (responses to issues raised or provision of information)**

- The minutes of the previous meeting were finalised and distributed on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2020.
- The Chair noted the actions from the previous meeting. There were two actions, both of which were completed.
- On action number one, CK noted the ongoing process for Management Plans, including consultation. The Chair asked about timeframes for consultation. Two weeks was considered a suitable timeframe to provide feedback on these plans.
- The second action was to communicate MOD9 timings, once known. CK noted MOD9 would be likely be submitted at the end of the following week (5 June 2020). He noted the presentation on MOD9 that was provided at the previous CCC.
- CK noted the time periods for these to be publicly displayed.

- **Correspondence**

The correspondence was noted, including prior distribution of the CCC meeting presentation:

- 22/2/20 - Email to members with the draft minutes from 12/2/20 extraordinary CCC for review.
- 28/2/20 - Email to members with the finalised minutes.
- 28/2/20 – Letter to RE with the minutes.
- 18/3/20 – Email from DO with an apology for this meeting due to travel.
- 31/3/30 – Email to members with the Rixs Creek Mine 2019 Annual Review Report.
- 11/5/20 – Email to members with the community Newsletter regarding Modification 9.
- 13/5/20 – Email to members advising that the CCC meeting scheduled for 27/5/20 will be held via video/teleconferencing due to the COVID-19 restrictions.
- 25/5/20 – Email to members with the meeting notice, agenda and correspondence report for this meeting.

- **Proponents Reports and Overview of Activities:**

**Progress of project:**

- CQ gave an overview of continued mining operations.
- He noted the Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project (SSD 6300) was approved by the Independent Planning Commission of NSW. He noted the commencement of SSD 6300 that occurred on 24 February 2020.

**Monitoring and Environmental Performance:**

- CQ noted recent rain and the frog pond habitat.
- CQ gave an overview of environment monitoring locations, including the location of the Civic Monitor.
- CQ gave an overview of waste volumes, including battery and timber recycling. SL asked a question about the liquid waste figure and whether this type of waste was collected or discharged. CQ confirmed liquid waste was collected and taken off site. MH asked about timber recycling and what had driven the figure. CQ said this was timber pallets. SL asked if this was historical clean ups or an increase in generation. CQ said it was historical clean ups.
- CQ gave an overview of the 2019 Production Summary. CQ noted the Integra washing arrangement.
- CQ provided the 2019 Operational Noise overview. He noted the April 8 2019 exceedance at the NM05 location. He noted total noise complaints and the reduction from previous year. MH asked about the 8 April 2020 event. CQ said there were no complaints in relation to that exceedance. CK gave an overview of the EPL criteria in relation to the exceedance. CQ noted no formal correspondence had been received in relation to the one (1) externally reportable incident to the EPA. He advised that DPIE were notified of the EPL3391 exceedance.
- MH asked about the total noise complaint figure, including the number of individual complaints. CQ gave an overview noting this was documented in the complaints section.
- CQ gave an overview of 2019 Blasting. He noted three complaints were received, which was a reduction from the previous year.
- He noted the 9 May 2019 exceedance, stating this exceeded the 115 dB blast overpressure level at the Mines Rescue monitor, however this did not exceed the 5 percent of the total number of blasts over a calendar year criteria. CQ noted that no blast exceeded the 120 dB criteria in 2019.
- CQ gave a 2019 Air Quality overview, noting four complaints were received regarding air quality. He noted the high result at static dust gauge D32 and suggested it may have been from contamination.
- CQ noted that malfunctions had occurred with air quality monitors due to drought and bushfire levels, which included issue with filters. He described the additional maintenance activities that took place as a result.
- CQ gave an overview of 2019 water sampling, noting some of the limitations caused by the dry period.

- CQ described the 2019 Rehabilitation work, noting the locations and some of the challenges in 2019 due to prolonged hot, dry weather. CQ noted comparisons against control sites (sites not mined) that were consistent with rehabilitation work on the site.
- CQ noted the weed management locations that were targeted.

#### **Community Complaints and Response to these Complaints:**

- CQ gave an overview of 2019 complaints and the responses to these complaints. CQ advised that from the 18 complaints recorded in 2019, there were 12 complainants, which included two anonymous complainants.
- CQ advised of the reduction in complaints from the previous year. He noted a single complaint about both noise and dust and how this had been captured separately in the reporting and response.

#### **Information provided to the community and any feedback:**

- CQ described the newsletters provided to the community, including the volumes of newsletters that had been distributed.
- The Chair asked about feedback received from the community given high volumes distributed. CQ noted only a small amount of feedback, including requests for structural inspections. CK noted that 15 requests for structural baseline inspections were received and inspections have been or are currently being conducted. He noted this was a condition in the new consent. CK noted distribution of the MOD9 newsletter. CK noted the mitigation requirements of the new consent, advising that four requests for mitigation have been received. Work so far includes air conditioning and tank cleaning. CK noted the process underway for solar inspections and cleaning.
- PB asked about properties with acquisition rights. CK noted the additional properties entitled under new consent. CK said he would table further information on these properties at the next meeting. CK said the homes were located near both the north and south of the operation, including in Camberwell village. The Chair asked about vacant land and if people could build a house on this land and if this was why the land had acquisition rights. CK confirmed that to be the case.
- The Chair asked that the Mine Dust and You Fact Sheet be distributed with the minutes.
- PB noted that a property in Camberwell village was sold due the nonpayment of rates and asked if this was purchased by Rix's Creek Mine. CK confirmed it hadn't been purchased by Rix's Creek Mine. SL volunteered to check the sale, noting the sale went to auction and followed the required legal process. SL noted that a number of properties across the Local Government Area were sold due to nonpayment of rates.

#### **• General Business**

- An update on MOD9 was provided by CK. He described the detail of the modification, noting that the exploration addition was a procedural process only to allow the mine to conduct exploration on mining lease land. He noted distribution of a newsletter and how contact was being made with the community, including through email and phone calls. CQ noted that the primary concern raised was about noise and said that the change to blasting was about minimising impacts and wouldn't increase the number of blasts in a single week.
- The Chair asked if people can subscribe to newsletters on the Bloomfield website. The Chair noted that this appeared to work well for other projects and CK took an action to add the ability to subscribe to the website.
- The Chair asked if there had been any feedback from the Department on the Annual Review. CQ advised that no feedback had been received.
- SL advised that the State Government had postponed Local Government Elections until September 2021. SL advised that it was likely she would remain on the CCC for another year. The Chair noted that this would be beneficial.
- SL asked about communication of required notices given the Singleton Argus and other newspapers had stopped printing. CK noted that the Singleton Argus was still available online that that Rix's Creek Mine had been advertising required notices digitally. SL noted

the people who relied on the print version. CK noted the importance of distributing newsletters. SL noted a printed newsletter would be helpful for those who aren't as proficient in the use of technology. The Chair asked about placing newsletters in the library or on other community noticeboards. SL supported this, noting the library's click and delivery service had been operating and that the library would open from 1 June 2020. SL noted the foyer in the library and the stands available to community groups, and that this option was available for newsletters. SL advised to see the staff in the library. SL noted the noticeboard near Coles and that there was another in the old town square near the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue building. The Chair asked CK to investigate those opportunities. CK asked if Council chambers could take copies of the newsletter. SL noted the chambers were closed and that the reopening is not yet confirmed. SL noted the visitor information centre. CQ asked SL if it would be possible to investigate having newsletters at the Council Chambers.

- GM asked how Council were communicating during the COVID-19 pandemic. SL noted first virtual public meeting had been held.
- PB asked if Rix's Creek Mine had looked into the new koala habitat protection guidelines and how these koala management plans may impact the mine. PB noted the areas of her farm now deemed as critical koala habitat. PB noted the mapping used and that the colours denote what is required of the landholder. CK advised that he was not aware of the koala guidelines, but noted the other guidelines the mine must adhere to. PB offered to send the link. CK said he would get in touch with PB.
- MH noted that she had moved from her Maison Dieu house and no longer lived in the Singleton LGA. MH noted that she was still a property owner in Singleton, operated a business in Singleton and was still a ratepayer. The Chair noted that this was still within the guidelines and MH could stay on the CCC. The Chair noted MH's contributions and her valued input. PB noted the contributions of MH, as did SL and that it would be great to have MH remain on the committee.
- GM noted he was pleased to see MH remain on the committee, as did BC.
- DB noted some of the support Bloomfield had provided to community organisations as part its COVID-19 response. MH noted that the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Singleton may need some PPE type support, and DB agreed to investigate this.

### • Next Meeting

- The Chair confirmed the next meeting of the CCC would occur 21 October 2020 at 9:30am. The meeting format would be determined by site COVID-19 protocols at the time.
- The meeting closed at 10:35am.

### Action items

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Provide information on additional homes with acquisition rights at the next CCC.	CK
2	Circulate the Mine Dust and You Fact Sheet.	CK
3	Seek additional opportunities for distribution of community newsletters.	CK
4	Investigate koala habitat guidelines.	CK
5	Investigate other community organisations that may require COVID-19 related support (PPE)	DB