

RIXS CREEK MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING: 25/05/2022

PRESENT: Independent Chairperson - Lisa Andrews

Community Representatives – Patricia Bestic (PB), Michelle Higgins (MH)

Company Representatives – Geoff Moore (GM), Chris Knight (CK), Damien Butler (DB - minutes), Brendon Clements (BC) & Dave Holmes (DH)

APOLOGIES: Dave Moran (DM), Deidre Olofsson (DO), Reg Eveleigh (RE) & Chris Quinn (CQ).

- **Welcome**

- The meeting was held on site.
- The Chair formally opened the meeting at 9:08am and welcomed attendees.
- MH joined via Zoom.
- DH was welcomed and introduced as an Environmental Officer.

- **Apologies**

- Apologies included Dave Moran (DM), Deidre Olofsson (DO), Reg Eveleigh (RE) and Chris Quinn (CQ).
- There was no Singleton Council representative present however the Chair will write to the Council's General Manager regarding the appointment of a representative.
- There was no quorum, but given it was not a decision making committee it was agreed to proceed with the meeting.

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

- The Chair covered the required declarations, noting that DH had filled in his necessary declaration forms.

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

- The Chair noted that the last CCC was held on 20 October 2021 and the minutes were finalised on 30 October 2021.
- The action items were noted, including a photo of the signage in the biodiversity area. That action was completed in the final presentation that was distributed as slide 28.
- CK noted two actions regarding increased representation on the CCC, particularly offering this to complainants. The second action CK noted was providing a briefing on biodiversity offset areas. CK advised that a presentation on RCN biodiversity areas is provided in the general business section.

- **Correspondence as per email to members 4/5/22 with 5 additional items:**

- 20/10/21 - Email to members with the draft minutes
- 30/10/21- Email to members with the finalised minutes and presentation from 20/10/21.

- 30/10/21 – Letter to RE with the finalised minutes.
- 31/3/22 – Email to members advising that Rix's Creek Mine Annual Review Report for 2021 is now available on the Bloomfield website.
- 4/5/22 – Email to members with the meeting notice, agenda and correspondence report for this meeting.
- 18/5/22 – Email from CQ advising that he will be an apology and stating that David Holmes will be attending on a regular basis.
- 18/5/22 – Email from MH requesting to participate via Zoom. Arrangements made.
- 19/5/22 – Email to DH with the governance forms for completion. Received back 20/5/22.
- 20/5/22 – Email from MH asking about the recycling of mining uniforms at Rix's Creek.*
- 23/5/22 – Email to members with the meeting link and reminder for this meeting.

*This matter acknowledged during the meeting and MH thanked for sending through the information on "Wornup". This item moved to General Business for further discussion.

• Proponents Reports and Overview of Activities:

Progress of project:

- CK noted CQs apology.
- CK noted that the presentation was a report on 2021 Annual Report, although some information pertaining to 2022 has also been included.
- CK advised that mining operations continued in the Rix's Creek West Pit and Rix's Creek North Camberwell Pit operations. CK noted MP 08_0102 Modification 9 was approved in February 2021 and SSD6300 Modification 1 was approved in July 2021.

Environmental Monitoring and Performance:

- CK noted the school visit from St Catherine's High School to inspect rehabilitation area in May 2021.
- CK noted the environment monitoring locations across the site.
- CK provided an overview of rainfall, noting it was near double the average. CK said this had a positive impact on rehabilitation.
- CK gave an overview of operational noise. There were seven noise complaints received by the mine during 2021, a decrease on the fifteen complaints that were recorded during the previous year. This decrease was recorded despite an increase in CHPP operations over weekend shifts which commenced in April 2021. No noise complaints had been received to date in 2022.
- CK went over the noise monitoring locations, noting the noise modelling that was run every day.
- CK noted that Rix's Creek Mine had been highly commended for its proactive noise management system in the NSW Mining HSEC Awards, winning third place in the environment excellence awards category. He gave an overview of the system. He noted the real-time nature of the program and noted that the EPA were using this as the standard across all mine sites.
- CK gave an overview of blasting. He noted the one fume event was classified as a three. He said that the category three event did not leave site.
- CK said that in 2021 five complaints were received in relation to blasting at Rix's Creek Mine, but he said no exceedances occurred due to blasting during 2022.
- The Chair asked if the mine photographs blasts. CK confirmed that blasts are photographed and filmed and CK offered to show video of a blast at the next CCC. This was taken as an **action**. MH asked for a comparison between a good and bad blast. Agreed.
- CK gave overview the modelling that occurs prior to each blast.
- CK talked through the 2021 air quality; noting there was one complaint received in 2021. No complaints have been received in 2022 regarding air quality.

- CK went through an overview of results from dust gauges, noting all results were below compliance levels. He gave an overview of TEOMs noting the mine was well under the rolling average.
- CK talked through the the dust tracks noting these were also well below requirements.
- CK spoke about the new fleet introduction and its positive impact on air quality. BC noted that five more trucks were coming and noted the increased efficiency and the potential need for less trucks, further explaining the additional safety features. CK noted the drop in noise. PB asked if the trucks are more comfortable for the drivers. BC confirmed this was the case and mentioned that there was far less vibration.
- CK went through waste management and advised of an increase in recycling of metal. He noted the clean-up campaign that also saw an increase in general waste. He noted the changes in suppliers, introduction of comingled bins, new labelling and a training package for all personnel. He noted this will allow diversion of a substantial amount of waste to landfill. He noted the waste oil rebate and the neutral cost, and the general diversion of waste from landfill.
- On surface water CK advised of two reportable incidents. He noted both were in regard to old underground workings and that both had been quickly reported to the EPA.
- CK noted the water sampling locations and how the initial incident was identified when an increase in salinity was picked up by the monitors. CK gave overview of electrical conductivity results covering the time of the incident.
- CK advised that 7.1 hectares of rehabilitation had been completed in 2021. He noted the areas that were prepared and the impact of the rains on completing these.
- CK confirmed that the sign had been erected on the biodiversity offset area.
- CK gave an overview of weed management and the focus areas. He noted the expense of managing it; around \$80,000 per year. PB asked about success with treating galenia. CK noted there was success and explained the factors. CK noted the prickly pear spraying. PB asked about Tiger Pear and CK said it was not an issue on the site. CK showed a map of the focus areas.

Community Complaints and Response to these Complaints:

- CK advised that of the seven noise complaints, four were from one resident and that all five blast complaints were from one resident.
- CK noted the complaints and the response to each complaints. Lighting complaints were discussed and how these occurred and were addressed; further noting people doing noise checks at night also do lighting checks.
- CK advised of the blast complainant and the invite to come to site. The complainant came to site to view blasting procedures and processes. CK noted the complainant had acquisition rights. The Chair asked about blast notifications and CK noted these occurred by email and by SMS.
- CK noted the dust complaint from the tailings dam. He explained the trial on dust suppressants which was not successful as it washed away in the rain. Investigation id underway of sprays in the area to proactively look at reducing that dust.
- CK advised of a noise complaint and the offer of mitigation that was not accepted. The complainant was not entitled to this but it was still offered. He noted no further complaints had been received from the individual complainant.
- CK talked through complaints regarding truck speeds on Rix's creek Lane and the installation of signage. He noted the company was tracked down and it was addressed with them. BC noted the work with drivers who were exceeding the speed.
- PB asked about source of noise and if noise complaints went down since new trucks were implemented. CK said there were no complaints this year. BC noted the source of noise like dozers or the first loads into trucks. PB noted inversions at home with the change in weather. DH noted noise from rail track works.
- CK noted the kangaroo culling and wild dog notifications.
- CK and DB talked through the various community support initiatives.

General Business

- CK gave update on Rix's Creek South SSD 6300 Modification 1. PB asked about Curlewis coal transport and CK confirmed it would come by truck. CK noted Singleton Council did provide comment and were supportive and that TFNSW raised no issues.
- CK gave an update on exploration activities. He noted exploration was being conducted on site.
- CK gave an overview of the Rix's Creek North Biodiversity Areas. He noted there were five offset areas. He said Apple Tree Flats has been transferred to NSW NPWS. PB asked if we still count it as an offset. CK said our requirements were met and it was now managed by NPWS.
- PB asked about offset areas on Bridgeman Road and if they were permanent. CK said these were established by Vale and they were permanent. PB asked if that prevented development. CK responded that it does. CK noted Council's concern with the areas. CK noted discussions to establish a conservation agreement for that area. He noted RCM was looking at doing a cool burn to help manage the area. He said the site is investigating engaging with a local indigenous group to assist with that cool burn.
- PB asked about the possibility of a solar farm and the potential location was noted. GM noted Mitsui has now withdrawn from that exercise.
- PB asked about offset areas so close to town and if it will be fenced off from use or if there's a possibility for passive recreation. CK said there is no scope in agreements for an allowance for that. He said there was an allowance for wild dog and invertebrate baiting but not for kangaroo management.
- PB asked about the location of Apple Tree Flat and CK confirmed it was adjacent to the National Park.
- CK noted the conservation agreement had taken three years but was in final draft.
- Recycling of clothing was discussed. CK said that the business would have a look at the options. CK noted the logo issue with non-mining personnel picking up the shirts and entering unauthorised.
- MH noted the challenges with the amount of workwear and past fashion sent to third world countries and that it then becomes their problem. MH suggested a badge that could be taken off. MH said she would prefer to not see them shredded.

Next Meeting

- The chair proposed to maintain the current meeting schedule. The Chair noted the next meetings would occur on Wednesday 19 October 2022 onsite at 9am.
- MH asked and it was agreed that the next meeting would include a site inspection.

Meeting closed at 10.17am with LA thanking all for their attendance.

Post Script: LA spoke with Bloomfield following the CCC. It was agreed to recruit for new members in line with the Department of Planning Guidelines for CCCs.

Action items

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Write to Singleton Council GM regarding replacement Singleton Council representative.	LA
2	Show internal video of a typical blast compared with externally sourced footage of a poor blast.	CK
3	Investigate options for recycling clothing.	CK/DB