

RIXS CREEK MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING: 11/05/2023

PRESENT: Independent Chairperson - Lisa Andrews

Community Representatives – Patricia Bestic (PB), Cr Sue George (SG), Reg Eveleigh (RE) & Deidre Olofsson (DO).

Company Representatives – Chris Knight (CK), Damien Butler (DB - minutes), Brendon Clements (BC), Dave Holmes (DH - Observer), Chris Quinn (CQ) & Julius Harris-Payne (DHP - observer).

APOLOGIES: Geoff Moore (GM) & Michelle Higgins (MH).

- **Welcome**

- The meeting was held on site.
- The Chair formally opened the meeting at 12:01pm and welcomed attendees, thanking them for accommodating the change in the meeting date to allow members to be briefed on the proposed Rix's Creek North Continuation Project.

- **Apologies**

- As listed above.

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

- The Chair covered the required declarations. There were no changes to these.

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

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Provide link to Resources Regulator portal (Rehabilitation Reforms). Complete: https://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/rehabilitation/mine-rehabilitation/seed-portal#anchor-environmental-data	CQ
2	Provide extracts from the employee newsletter covering community contributions. Complete: Included with minutes	DB
3	Confirm the amount of land that had been rehabilitated as per the approval. Complete: 2021 Annual Review Total Rehabilitation 745.9ha	CQ
4	Send UHMD Annual Forum information to the CCC. Complete: https://miningdialogue.com.au/engagement/2022-community-forum	LA
5	Invite James Barben or Craig Milton to present to CCC following UHMD annual forum. Complete – invited them to October 2023 meeting.	CQ/DB

No further business arising.

- **Correspondence - As per what was sent with the meeting notice on 4/5/23 as well as the reminder sent on 10/5/23:**

- 3/11/22 - Email to members with the draft minutes
- 14/11/22- Email to members with the finalised minutes and presentation from 26/10/22.
- 14/11/22 – Letter to RE with the finalised minutes.
- 22/11/22 - Email from MH requesting a copy of each newsletter for Rixs Creek when circulated and suggestion for advertising CCC.
- 3/4/23 – Email to members advising of the change in the reporting period for the Annual Review.
- 1/5/23 – Email to UHMD inviting them to present at the October 2023 CCC.
- 1/5/23 – Email to members bringing forward CCC meeting from 24/5/23 to 11/5/23.
- 4/5/23 – Email to members with the meeting notice, agenda and correspondence report for this meeting.
- 11/5/23 –Email to members with the link for today's meeting.

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

Progress of project:

- CQ gave an overview of current operations, noting continued mining operations in the Rix's Creek West Pit and Rix's Creek North Camberwell Pit operations. He noted the progression to the western out of pit dump area.

Environmental Monitoring and Performance:

- CQ noted the environmental monitoring locations and discussed the night time monitoring that occurs.
- CQ explained that the reporting period for the Annual Review had changed. Noting that the change in reporting period was approved by the Department of Planning and Environment.
- CQ gave an overview of the 2022/2023 rainfall data.
- CQ gave an overview of operational noise management. CQ noted that there were no externally reportable incidents relating to noise during January - March 2022 / 2023. He advised that there were two complaints received. In the first complaint the mine was not operational, and in the second complaint all readings were within compliance levels.
- CQ showed the noise monitoring locations and explained the predictive mine forecast models and how they are used operationally.
- Blasting was covered and CQ explained the numbers of blasts and the fume ratings that were recorded. He advised that four (4) complaints were received in relation to blasting at Rix's Creek Mine and that no exceedances occurred due to blasting during the reporting period.
- Air quality was covered by CQ. CQ noted the improved air quality over the reporting period.
- CQ gave an update on improvements to waste management. He noted the significant reduction in general waste for the period. Further noting the increase in liquid waste. The Chair asked about timber recycling and CQ explained how this occurs.
- Surface water management was covered by CQ. He advised that during 2022/23 there were three reportable incidents. He explained the remediation actions that were taken.
- CQ showed the water sampling locations.
- CQ gave an overview of electrical conductivity and salinity results for 2022/23.
- CQ noted that 16.48 hectares of rehabilitation had been completed for the year ending March 2023.

- Weed management was covered by CQ, noting the focus on Acacia Saligna. PB asked about tiger pear and CQ said that it was not a problem on the site. Coolatai grass was raised by SG, who said she would send information to CQ on a workshop being held by Local Land Services.

Community Complaints and Response to these Complaints:

- Complaints and the response to each complaint was covered by CQ. He noted issues with lighting timers. PB remarked on the noise complaint that occurred when the mine was not operational and that it could only have occurred during particular winds.
- The Chair asked about the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) involvement in a blasting complaint and whether this was because the complainant had contacted them too. CQ confirmed that this was the case. He noted the resulting correspondence with the EPA, advising that the reply confirmed compliance.
- PB asked whether the complaint about lighting is related to traffic impacts. CQ said it was about the lighting being intrusive on a residence.

Information provided to the community and any feedback:

- CQ noted the wild dog baiting notifications and the UHMD school tours.
- CQ provided an overview of recent support for the community and also updated the meeting on the recent Family Day held at the site. PB asked if the mine was operating and CQ confirmed that there was limited operations on the day.

General Business

- DO asked how the reportable water incidents were being rectified. CQ advised that a risk assessment had occurred and outlined the remediation works that had taken place. DO asked whether an incident was going to happen again. BC noted the current challenges, the work to build a bigger dam and the bore holes to lower the water level in the historic underground workings. BC confirmed that if another large flood event happened today that the entire area would likely be overwhelmed. BC advised that there was the ability to mine the entire area. DO asked for a picture of the area and an overview of the actions that were taken. CQ noted this was provided at the previous CCC but that he could distribute this information at the next meeting.
- DO asked how much rehabilitation has been completed to 'certification'. CQ explained that the site is in ecosystem establishment and development phases of rehabilitation, noting no rehabilitation had been signed off by the Regulator at Rix's Creek Mine. CQ explained that the site is in the phase of building the scientific evidence for certification. DO asked how long it would take to demonstrate an ecosystem before it could get sign-off from the Regulator. CK noted that an area at Bloomfield Mine had been signed off. DO asked for a full brief at the next CCC and this was agreed as an action. CQ talked through the recent Rehabilitation Reform process.
- PB noted the two recent meetings she had attended including UHMD Forum and another meeting regarding 'the transition' that was held in Singleton. PB said that the Transition meeting had disgraceful lies about rehabilitation. PB noted it was hard to find out who funded the Transition meeting but that it turned out to be Lock the Gate and the Unions. She noted the talk about the buffer zones from the mines and how this ties up land use. She said the advice given about the rehabilitation were misleading.
- CK talked about the recent Coal Festival and the display Bloomfield had offering a free sausage sizzle using one of the cattle grazed on rehabilitated land. CK said there was a great response and that it made for lots of positive discussions about final land use. BC noted the Group's passion for cattle grazing and this was discussed.
- PB noted a campaign for pest pigs totalling 150, 50 deer and 50 wild dogs. BC noted that the mine had not seen any deer.

- DO advised that she could now see more dirt. BC noted this was another strip being mined around the Dulwich property. BC said this was the sub clays. DO asked if this was as far as the mine could go and BC said that's as far as the mine can go without the property being sold.
- PB asked about the land Ross Wilkinson was looking to sell and said that the development couldn't take place in that area because of the mine. PB asked if the land had been sold and if that impacts operations. CK showed the area on a plan and said that the mine did not have voluntary acquisition over the land.
- CK then gave a presentation on the Rix's Creek North Continuation Project. Copies of the newsletter being distributed across the local community were circulated. CK explained the reasons for the project and its benefits. DO asked how much time was remaining with the Camberwell pit and CK gave an overview of current resources and timing.
- CK clarified the highway realignment was essentially from the base of Dead Man's Hill. PB asked CK to clarify where the conservation areas were and CK showed this on the screen. SG asked if the project meant having fewer voids. CK explained that there would be less highwalls. DO asked if it's a state road and whether it is forced acquisition. DO asked if the realignment goes past the gully. SG asked if it is cut and fill and CK explained how the process would work. DO said the highway should reduce the speed through the area and that she believed the 100km per hour speed limit is a disgrace.
- CK explained the changes to mining leases that would be required.
- DO asked about the change to 24 hour operations and said it would have a major impact on neighbours. CK talked about the modelling that will occur as part of the process. DO talked about the sound of rocks dumping into trucks being the major issue.
- PB asked about timeframes for the project and CK estimated that it would take around three years. PB asked if staff will have continuation of employment and CK confirmed that would be the case. PB asked about the mine life and CK said that the end of life would be 2049.
- *BC left the meeting at 1:26pm.*
- CK gave an overview of the mining timeline sequence.
- CK gave overview of final landform, noting that there were no highwalls. DO said it would still fill with water. CK said that would come out from the water study. CK explained the differences in the final landform including no highwalls. CK talked through stakeholder and community engagement.
- DO asked about timeframes CK confirmed the project would see the mine extended from 2035 until 2049.
- DO asked if the mine has a transition team organised and CK said that the mine did not. DO highlighted the importance of having this for the workforce and talked about her own experience. DO asked if there would be community town hall briefings and CK said not at this phase, but that it would likely occur in future as part of the approval process.
- DO asked if the approval will be impacted by emissions coming out from pits and CK noted that emissions will be a focus as part of the environmental assessment.
- DO asked why the Camberwell mine stopped mining near the highway and if we were told to do that by a regulatory authority. CK said Rix's Creek Mine independently decided to stop mining based on information from the geotechnical studies, but that the mine has a current mining approval for the area. CK confirmed Rix's Creek South did crack the highway, however that matter has long been resolved.
- RE asked if the motel was going to be knocked down. CK responded that this was unknown.

Next Meeting

- The meeting schedule was confirmed. The next meeting would take place Wednesday 18 October onsite at 9:00am. The Chair noted that extraordinary meetings can be held prior to that if required.
- The meeting was declared closed at 1:50pm.

Action items

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Provide DO with a plan of the historical UG workings at Rix's Creek South operations at the next meeting.	CQ
2	Provide briefing on Rehabilitation Reforms including areas that have been signed off by the Regulator at Bloomfield Mine.	CK
3	Presentation by UHMD to provide update at next meeting	CK
4	Confirm the status of the motel referred to by RE.	CQ