

2023 Rix's Creek Mine Independent Environmental Audit

Response to Auditors Recommendations - update August 2024



Number	Condition	Auditors Recommendation	Bloomfield's Response	Proposed Action Due date
1	PA 08_0102 Schedule 3, Condition 37.	Finalise long-term security of offset areas or seek further extension from the Secretary to the date required to secure the biodiversity areas listed in PA 08_0102 Schedule 3, Condition 37.	Considerable progress has been made to date, and consultation with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) regarding the Conservation Agreements remains ongoing. Rix's Creek Mine will seek an extension of time from DPE and will continue to progress with the final submission of the Conservation Agreements to finalise the long-term security of offsets. <i>Continued efforts have been made to progress finalisation of the Conservation Agreements for Rix's Creek North Offsets and after many years of attempting to finalise the existing draft agreements TBG have now been advised from NSW BCT that they have revised the Conservation Agreement template and the existing draft agreements need to be re-drafted by BCT. Contact has been made with BCT on a monthly basis in 2024 in an attempt to progress the agreements. TBG have engaged an ecologist to progress the Conservation Agreements once available.</i>	31/12/2025
2	SSD 6300 Schedule 2, Condition B19	Update the Road Closure Plan to include provisions for minimising the duration of closures and for avoiding peak traffic periods as far as reasonable.	Road closure plan to be updated by 31/06/2024 to include provisions for minimising the duration of closures and avoiding peak traffic periods. <i>The New England Highway (NEH) Road Closure Safe Work Procedure was updated on 17/11/2023 to include the process for a traffic guidance scheme which includes traffic control light stations and the communication protocol between mining operations and the Traffic Control Manager to reduce disruptions to traffic. The blast is fired following the schedule in the Road Occupancy Licence, which provides times and dates when the temporary road closure is permitted. The Road Occupancy Licence for the NEH was renewed in June 2024.</i>	Completed
3	SSD 6300 Schedule 2, Condition B41	Continue to investigate longer term controls to lower the water level and prevent seepage from the historic underground coal workings.	RCM will continue to investigate options for lowering the water levels in historic underground workings. <i>Planning is underway to place a water storage dam to better manage seepage from historic underground workings. Rix's Creek Mine is currently in the process of updating Management Plans for this work to be undertaken.</i>	31/12/2025
4	SSD 6300 Schedule 2, Condition B57	Update the worker induction package or develop a new training package to address all training requirements outlined in Section 6 of the Rix's Creek South Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan.	Worker induction is to be updated to include additional training requirements from Section 6 of the Rix's Creek South Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan by 31/03/2024. <i>A review of the induction training requirements was undertaken in January 2024 and includes training requirements in Section 6 of the RCS Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan.</i>	Completed
5	SSD 6300 Schedule 2, Condition B67	Update the Bushfire Management Plan to include a schedule for undertaking proposed bushfire mitigation work including monitoring and maintenance.	A review of the bushfire management plan will be undertaken and a schedule to assess fuel loads will be incorporated in the document by 31/06/2024. <i>The Bushfire Management Plan is currently under review and waiting for internal sign-off. A schedule has been included in the document for additional inspections of fuel loads.</i>	31/10/2024
6	EPL 3391 Condition O4.2	Replace signage in place at the effluent discharge utilisation areas with signage that states "Effluent Re-Use Area Keep Out".	Signage to be upgraded to include the exact wording "Effluent Re-Use Area Keep Out" by 31/03/2024. <i>Replacement signage at effluent discharge utilisation areas was completed on 28/03/2024.</i>	Completed
7	EPL 3391 Condition R5.6	Ensure the total tonnage of tyres disposed is included in the Heavy Plant-Tyre Disposal Report provided for future Annual Return submissions.	Total tonnage of tyres to be included in the Heavy Plant tyre Disposal Report in the next EPL3391 Annual Return. <i>The Annual Return was submitted on 28/05/2024. The Heavy Plant Tyre Disposal Report was updated to include the total tonnage of tyres.</i>	Completed