



Rix's Creek North Continuation Project Update

Community Newsletter – December 2024

About Rix's Creek Mine & The Bloomfield Group

The Bloomfield Group owns and operates Rix's Creek Mine (RCM) northwest of Singleton. RCM was established in 1990 and is a coal mining operation. Mining occurs on either side of the New England Highway in the Rix's Creek North (RCN) and Rix's Creek South (RCS) operations.

The Bloomfield Group is a proud Australian-owned and operated mining and engineering group. We employ local people and work with local small businesses, and have been part of the Hunter community for more than 85 years.

Rix's Creek North Continuation Project

We are seeking to extend the mine life of Rix's Creek North. This is called the Rix's Creek North Continuation Project (the Project).

Throughout this year, we have been undertaking numerous technical assessments as we develop the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project.

The assessments are well advanced, however, some of the assessments have taken longer than initially estimated. The specialist EIS technical studies include:

- Water Resources (surface water & groundwater);
- Ecology;
- Aboriginal Cultural and Historic Heritage;
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas;
- Acoustics (operating noise and blasting);
- Soils, Rehabilitation and Final Landform;
- Geochemistry;
- Traffic and Transport;

- Visual;
- Economics;
- Social.

The environmental assessment process aims to identify the potential impacts of the Project. We will be reaching out to potentially affected neighbours in the New Year to discuss measures to minimise and manage impacts from the Project.

General information sessions will also be held in the New Year to provide feedback to the community on the assessments and to provide interested persons with further opportunity to discuss the Project.

The Project

The Project is seeking to recover additional coal resources that exist within the mining authorisations held by The Bloomfield Group.

The Project is seeking to continue mining operations at RCN from 2035 (current approval) until the end of 2049. Operations are proposed to continue to the west and north, with the Camberwell Pit Mining Area requiring the relocation and upgrade of approximately four kilometres of the New England Highway, located to the north of Singleton.

The highway realignment would commence south of the intersection of McInerney Road at Camberwell. If approved, we will construct the new section of road in close consultation with Transport for NSW.

The existing highway will remain open while we build the new road alignment in order to minimise disruption to day to day traffic. We estimate that this part of the Project would generate approximately 60 jobs during construction.

The Project also includes:

- Continuation of mining operations to the north and west of the existing Falbrook Mining Area out to Middle Falbrook and Stony Creek Roads;
- Maintaining the currently approved combined RCN peak raw coal extraction rate of six million tonnes per annum (i.e. the amount of resource extracted per annum will remain the same as currently approved);
- Revisions to the final landform, including changes to the number, location and volumes of the final voids allowing for enhanced future land use (predominantly for cattle grazing);
- Proposed mining operations within the Falbrook Mining Area (previously known as the North Open Cut) to be conducted 24 hours per day, 7 days per week;
- Seeking approval to take overburden from RCN to RCS to improve rehabilitation outcomes.

Project Benefits

The Hunter is the leading regional economy in Australia (NSW Government 2022), to which RCM is an important contributor. The existing social and economic benefits of the RCM would continue as a result of the extended mine life proposed by the Project. The Project would enable the continued annual expenditure of approximately \$170M in goods and services and the continued employment of approximately 250 Full Time Equivalent employees, while supporting approximately 520 individual suppliers.

The Project is expected to generate:

- Additional taxation payable to both the State (Payroll tax) and Commonwealth (Company tax) from the additional years of mining;
- Approximately 60 direct jobs during the construction of the New England Highway realignment;
- Royalties from the additional 63.5 Million tonnes of Run of Mine coal being mined;
- A final landform which will contain no high walls;
- An upgraded, modern and more efficient alignment of the New England Highway.

Community

We were pleased to be one of the sponsors of the Singleton Show held in September, where we were on the ground sharing information with our community about our operations and our projects.

Earlier this year, we launched our Community Investment Report. Our investments in the community are far reaching, delivering benefits in health, education and social priorities. In the last financial year, we supported over 50 community organisations across the Hunter. A copy of the report is available at:
www.bloomcoll.com.au/sustainability/community.

If you are involved with a community organisation, you can learn more about how to apply for support and funding through The Bloomfield Group Foundation on our website at www.bloomcoll.com.au/foundation.

Information and Blasting Hotline

Our community telephone hotline operates 24 hours a day.

If you have any questions about our operations, please contact the hotline on 02 4930 2665.

Community Consultative Committee

The RCM Community Consultative Committee (CCC) generally meets twice per year, with the aim of keeping the community informed regarding the progress of the operations and environmental performance. The CCC will next meet in May 2025. It is an important forum for open discussion between the community, local government, stakeholders and RCM representatives.

Additional meetings are also held as required.

If you have any enquiries about the CCC, please contact the Independent Chairperson, Lisa Andrews, at lisaandrews.ic@gmail.com.

Further Information

If you have any questions in regard to the Project, EIS activities or our day-to-day operations, please contact:

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