

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

**MEETING:** 27/05/2025

**PRESENT:** Chair - Lisa Andrews

Community Representatives – Cr Sue George (SG), Michelle Higgins (MH)

Company Representatives – Chris Knight (CK), Damien Butler (DB - minutes), Julius Harris-Payne (JP), David Holmes (DH), Thomas Holz (TH), Brendon Clements (BC), Chris Quinn (CQ) \*joined 9:48am.

**APOLOGIES:** Reg Eveleigh (RE), Deidre Olofsson (DO) & Patricia Bestic (PB).

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- **Welcome**

- The meeting was held on-site at Rix's Creek South.
- The Chair formally opened the meeting at 9:02am.
- The Chair provided an Acknowledgment of Country.
- The Chair noted that the site tour was postponed due to poor weather conditions.

- **Apologies**

- Apologies included RE, DO and PB.

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

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

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

- The Chair noted the timing of the previous CCC, held on 23 October 2024, the actions that arose, and that the minutes were finalised on 12 November 2024.
- There were three actions from the previous meeting.
- The first action was to review Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions reporting requirements, and this was completed on 11 November.
- The second action was to review the light at the Rix's Creek North entrance. CK advised that this had been investigated and that Ausgrid owned the light. CK agreed to follow up with Ausgrid, and this was taken as an action.
- The third action was for the Governance Forms to be sent to TH for completion and return, which was completed on 11 November 2024.

- **Correspondence**

- The Chair noted the correspondence, including meeting reminders.
- The Chair noted correspondence from DO regarding rehabilitation, and CK provided an overview of the response, sharing this on the screen. (See slide 52 of presentation.)

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

**Progress of the project:**

- CK provided an overview of the progress of the project. He noted the progression of rehabilitation at the Western out of pit dump area.

**Environmental Monitoring and Performance:**

- CK outlined the Environment Monitoring Locations.
- CK provided an overview of rainfall data, noting the annual average had already been exceeded. He noted the dry December and the dust complaint received over that period.
- Operational Noise was covered, and CK noted the three noise complaints received during the Annual Review reporting period (12 months- 1 April to 30 March).
- CK outlined the Noise Monitoring Locations and gave an overview of the predictive forecast models.
- Blasting was covered. CK noted the two complaints received during the Annual Review reporting period and explained the blast fume ratings.
- Air Quality was covered, and CK explained the real-time monitoring that occurs. CK advised that three complaints had been received during the Annual Review reporting period.
- CK discussed the limited beneficial information that is gained from dust deposition gauges, noting RCM only has two deployed, one for each consent requirement. The Chair asked if the condition around dust deposition gauges would be removed in future. CK noted the amount of PM10 and PM 2.5 monitoring that occurs and the Departments allowance some year ago to allow mines to reduce, but not entirely remove the requirement for dust gauges.
- CK covered the Air Quality Analysis, noting that the PM10 and PM2.5 levels were below the criteria. CK noted the spike in PM2.5 levels in August 2024.
- CK covered Waste Management, noting the metal recycling figures that included equipment recycling and the stacker reclaimer. The figure was clarified as being 254.620 tonnes. CK noted the positive increase in the use of co-mingled bins and advised that Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs) were now also being recycled.
- Surface Water was covered, and CK advised that two sediment dams had recently overflowed due to the recent severe weather. CK clarified that these dams were not mine water.
- The Chair asked about water monitoring as part of the Environment Protection License (EPL). CK noted that additional ground and surface water sampling is undertaken above the EPL requirements.
- CK advised that the sediment dams are designed to hold a one in 20-year event, while mine water storage was designed to hold a 1 in 100-year event and that all mine water has been contained in the recent flooding event.
- Electrical Conductivity and Salinity results were covered, and CK noted the higher electrical conductivity results in December 2024 due to low rainfall. The W6 Black Wattle Creek area was discussed and highlighted as being an ephemeral creek.
- Rehabilitation figures were covered, with CK noting 19.2 Ha of rehabilitation had been completed during the reporting period, compared to the 17.7ha commitment in the forward program. CK shared photographs of the recently rehabilitated areas.
- CK covered Weed and Pest Management. CK noted the influx of pigs and the work to reduce pig numbers to the south of the operation. MH asked if it was a shooting cull and CK advised that this was conducted via baiting and trapping. CK explained how the trapping program works. SG advised that pigs were a problem on most mine sites, and were increasing. SG asked about Green Cestrum, and CK noted a recent campaign to reduce this weed that included a donation of chemicals to neighbours to assist in management.

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

- CK covered complaints. MH asked how the mine's complaints compared to those of other mines, and SG said that the mine's complaint numbers were similar.
- CK noted the dust complaint received in December 2024.

### **Information provided to community and Feedback:**

- CK advised of the 1080 wild dog and fox baiting notice and the kangaroo cull notice. CK noted that an upcoming school tour with two-year 12 earth and environmental science classes is to be held on 18 June.

### **Community Support:**

- DB provided an overview of the company's work in the community, including initiatives to support Hunter Melanoma Foundation, Seniors Week, Singleton Men's Shed, Singleton Netball Association, Ronald McDonald House and Business Singleton.

### **• General Business**

- CK provided an update on Rix's Creek North Modification 10. CK noted the approval and the conditions, including the strict conditions around waste tyre storage disposal. CK advised that the mine will be required to investigate recycling options annually. MH asked about recycling tyres on site, and CK explained the challenges.
- CK noted the Management Plan review and that the Rehabilitation Strategy was due to be submitted on 5 March 2026.
- CK provided an update on the Rix's Creek North Continuation Project, noting that assessments were continuing. CK noted the identification of the presence of the legless lizard (Delma). CK advised that a robust fugitive gas model would be included in the assessment.
- SG asked whether State and Commonwealth approvals are separate or if they can be done together. CK provided an overview of the approval process, noting bilateral assessment process.
- SG asked about conversations with Council about the purchase of the highway. TH noted the initial discussions that had taken place. SG advised that the process to purchase the road was lengthy, and would take at least 12 months.
- Landowner engagement upon finalisation of impact assessment studies was discussed, and TH said that the company would be doing those engagements personally, rather than having a third party do them.
- MH asked about the Council's Sustainability Committee. CK noted the recent meeting was more introductory in nature, and CK said he would be happy to provide updates following the next meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting is scheduled for 22 October 2025 and will include a mine tour. The Chair took an action to determine numbers for vehicle requirements.
- The meeting was declared closed at 9:53am.

**Action items**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1	Follow up with Ausgrid regarding the light at the Rix's Creek North entrance.	CK
2	Determine the numbers for vehicle requirements for the mine tour.	Chair
3	Provide update on Singleton Sustainability Committee at next meeting	CK