

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

**MEETING:** 28/04/2026

**PRESENT:** Independent Chair - Lisa Andrews

Community Representatives – Michelle Higgins (MH), Cr Sue George (SG), Deidre Olofsson (DO) (Zoom),

The Bloomfield Group (TBG) Representatives – Chris Knight (CK), Julius Harris-Payne (JP), Thomas Holz (TH), Chris Quinn (CQ), Brendon Clements (BC), Kate Baartz (KB – minutes) & Dave Holmes (DH)

**APOLOGIES:** Patricia Bestic (PB)

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### **WELCOME**

- MH thanked members for accommodating change of date/time.
- The meeting was held on-site at Rix's Creek South.
- The Chair formally opened the meeting at 9:00 am.
- The Chair provided an Acknowledgment of Country.

### **APOLOGIES**

- RE will no longer be a representative on the CCC due to health reasons, additional members sought. Request to forward any suggestions for new members to the Chair.

### **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

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

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (RESPONSES TO ISSUES RAISED OR PROVISION OF INFORMATION)**

- The Chair noted that the previous CCC was held on 22 October 2025, the actions that arose, and that the minutes were finalised on 4 November 2025.
- Five action items to be presented in general business.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

As per the meeting notice of 14/4/26:

- 6/11/25 - Email to members with the draft minutes
- 24/11/25 - Email to members with finalised minutes.
- 4/12/25 – Email to members advising of Commencement of Community Consultation- Rix's Creek North Continuation Project. Feedback received from MH.
- 8/12/25 – Email to members with further information about the community consultation and attaching the VLAMP document.
- 23/12/25 – Email to members advising of Acquisition: Former Yancoal Mining Assets (Rix's Creek).
- 9/1/26 – Email to members advising of change of date to first CCC meeting of 2026. Now 29/4/26.

- 4/3/26 – Email to members with the newsletter for the Rix's Creek North Continuation Project.
- 14/4/26 – Email to members with meeting notice & agenda for this meeting.

## **PROPONENTS REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**

### **Progress of the project**

- CQ provided an overview of the project noting the current mining areas in the Rix's Creek West Pit and Rix's Creek North Camberwell Pit.

### **Environmental Monitoring and performance (CQ)**

- CQ explained locations of air, noise, water monitoring and blast monitoring locations; presenting meteorological data which showed higher than average rainfall for YEM 2026 compared to the average rainfall – 734.6mm compared to 652.7mm.
- CQ explained monthly compliance noise monitoring as well as nightly noise monitoring noting there were no externally reportable noise related incidents during YEM 26.
- Four noise complaints were received during YEM26.
- CQ explained predictive noise modelling tools which are used to highlight locations where noise enhancement could occur.
- During YEM 26 there were 122 production blasts and CQ explained the blast fume strategy, predictive modelling and the process for blast planning. There were no exceedances recorded during YEM 26 and one complaint was received.
- Air quality monitoring for YEM 26 was explained including location and type of gauges, monitoring results across different locations of mine operations
- The waste management update explained this was a focus area in YEM 26 resulting in increased recycling of metal and batteries, significantly reducing general waste.
- SG acknowledged that this would be a significant cost saving, CK confirmed yes.
- CQ provided an update on surface water, noting three reportable events in YEM 26, two of which coincided with rain events.
- One incident associated to historic mine workings was subject to an internal review under the Fines Act resulting in the EPA withdrawing the penalty notice and issuing an official caution instead. There were no complaints related to water.
- MH asked what the cost of the fine with CK confirming it would have been \$30k (up from \$15k in the last 12 months).
- CQ explained water monitoring results in different locations and the differing results in low flow conditions. Dam water conditions were also discussed along with the impacts of weather conditions.
- 15.3 hectares of land were rehabilitated during YEM 26 with some areas shaped into the final landform with progress photos shown.
- Weed and pest management continues with a campaign focused on managing Western Australian Golden Wreath Wattle (*Acacia Saligna*).
- The Chair asked what the lifespan was, with CQ explaining the seeds remains dormant for up to 20 years. They take three years to flower and can grow in low fertile soils. The team is hopeful that the drone spraying will have a positive impact.
- MH questioned if high phosphorous fertiliser could be used as Australian native plants don't like high levels of phosphorus. CK confirmed this can be investigated noting that the *Acacia Saligna* is an old rehab legacy. Discussion ensued around the potential pros and cons of using a high phosphorous fertiliser, controlled burning and possibility of introducing livestock to eat it.

## COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS

- There were 16 complaints in YEM 26 and the register of complaints is available on the TBG website. <https://www.bloomcoll.com.au/sustainability/environmental-management/rixs-creek-assessments/complaint-register>
- An overview of the different complaints was provided and an explanation of the complaints management process.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- CQ provided an overview of the organisations and projects that received funding from The Bloomfield Foundation highlighting projects in Singleton including the donation of food items to the Singleton Neighbourhood Centre by both staff and TBG.

## QUESTIONS

### Falbrook Pit

- DO – How much water is in Falbrook Pit? CQ – Around 7.3 gigalitres
- DO – Is it permanent storage and do you need an approval? CK/CQ – It's temporary storage and the current approval requires the area to be backfilled with no void at end of mining. The storage is a major water source for site operations. RCM doesn't use any offsite water for operations nor draw from Glennies Creek or the Hunter River.
- DO – Is that area part of the EPBC? CK – no referral specifically for the Falbrook Pit, EPBC referral is for RCN continuation project
- DO also questioned if any further mining had occurred in the Falbrook Pit under EPBC referral. CK noted no further mining has been undertaken in the Falbrook Area since overtaken from Integra.

**Action: DO to provide more information/project number.**

### Biosolids

- DO – Why do you use biosolids? CQ/BC – Incorporating biosolids improves solid quality in rehabilitation and helps provide the best opportunity to grow in low rainfall. It also helps prevent rainfall gouging.

### Green cestrum

- DO – How is green cestrum being managed? CQ/BC – It's a challenge especially in riparian areas. It is not isolated to the Rix's Creek site and needs a coordinated approach to manage but that is not the case here. DO noted there are properties in Camberwell with green cestrum.

### EPA infringement

- DO – How did you get out of the fine? CQ/BC - EPA conducted an internal review, TBG provided additional information and the EPA took this into consideration. Undertook a range of works including building a sump to pump out from underground workings, additional drilling to design a dam to capture any water from the underground which will remove the hazard. The Chair asked if the fine was paid with BC confirming that the appeals process occurred before the fine was required to be paid.

### Biodiversity offsets

- DO – Are biodiversity offsets okay with weed management and controls? CK – Yes, Hunter Land Management undertake a range of services each year to manage this.

### Heritage

- DO – What are the coke ovens? CK – The coke ovens are historical relics from previous mine operations and are of local significance. There was discussion in the meeting room about historic photos of the coke ovens on the wall with interest expressed in visiting them on the next site tour.

- DO - What kind of mandatory maintenance do you have to do? CK – There is weed spraying and an exclusion management plan, the area is fenced with signage with plans to remove trees to stabilise the remaining coke ovens. Specialist heritage advice informed the management plan.  
DO requested photos be included in the next presentation?  
**Action: Include photos of heritage items in next presentation.**  
**Action: Tour of coke ovens at next site visit.**
- MH confirmed that there has been a visit previously.
- There was discussion around Granbalang and surveying towers, with CK confirming that Granbalang isn't historic heritage, it was built by some staff about 40 years ago. BC advised there are many surveying towers atop hills in the area, and these were historically used for surveying. DO mentioned they were unable to find pictures of it.
- DO – There is a little square fenced off near Wendy Bowmans house and asked what that was? CK – not sure, more information required.
- DO – Are there any other heritage/historic items? CK – There is a grave at Rix's Creek North for the son of James Glennie. The grave is within the existing approved mining area however there is no immediate plan to mine the area. Any disturbance of the grave would require discussion with any remaining descendants. There is signage in place and the area is secure. The site is included in management plans and there are specific steps to follow if mining is proposed.
- DO – Do you do RAP things? CK – yes there is ongoing engagement with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs). More than 400 artefacts were salvaged at RCS which are documented and are stored in an approved keeping place on site. Once operations are finished on site, it will be up to the RAPs to determine what they want done with the artefacts.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **RCN Continuation Project**

- An update was provided on the progress of the RCN Continuation Project including the assessments and consultation currently underway.
- DO asked if the SEARs was extended and CK confirmed an extension until October 2026, with submission of the EIS expected mid-2026.
- MH asked what concerns had been raised during consultation and CK mainly dust, noise and duration of operations.

### **Integra underground**

- CK explained the administrative modification to reflect future ownership and responsibilities with TBG responsible for Integra East and HV Coking Coal Integra West. This includes the land and void, rehabilitation liability and clean-up of operations.
- DO asked what was happening with unused Oak Park School and CK advised requirements and responsibilities are being reviewed.
- DO asked if the pipeline would be removed and CK advised the pipeline will stay as it is part of a water sharing scheme with Mount Owen.
- DO asked where the modification for that was and CK advised it should be on the planning website for Mount Owen.

### **Action items from last meeting**

#### *Item 1: Show location plans from old underground workings*

- CK presented images and maps of the two historic underground collieries including the coke ovens discussed earlier.
- BC provided additional information about water levels, separate heights and workings.

- DO asked if they were owned by two different companies and CK confirmed this was the case and advised that the history of these (circa 1870s) can be provided. BC also advised that mapping from the 1800s is not necessarily representative of where the workings are and how water moves through the sites with the team often trying to determine water flows during heavy rain events.
- DO asked if water impacted the coke ovens and CK confirmed that they were not impacted by mining operations or water flows.

**Action: Provide historical information ownership and operations from the 1870s**

*Item 2: Follow up with Ausgrid regarding the light at the RCN entrance*

- Complete, no response as yet

*Item 3: Water quality requirements for stock*

- CQ provided information about cattle, sheep, horses, pigs and poultry drinking water guidelines.

*Item 4: Provide the amount of water held in the Falbrook Open Cut.*

- CK advised it was 7.3 gigalitres as at 27/03/2026.

*Item 5: Provide a copy of the Greenhouse Gas report*

- CK explained emissions reporting that is made to the Clean Energy Regulator. TBG reported Scope 1 emissions of approximately 90k and Scope 2 emissions of approximately 15k which are below the safeguard mechanism. The management approach to reducing GHG emissions was also explained.
- SG asked if there is a requirement to report on Scope 3 emissions with CK advised there is not.
- Infrastructure is currently being constructed to enable biodiesel to be used on site, B4 can be utilised with no impact on equipment and will improve emissions. TBG also owns Biodiesel Industries Australia (BIA) and a handout was provided with further information on BIA.

#### **Other discussion**

- MH asked about the changing nature of the work environment and increasing gender diversity on site with BC advising there are many women on site and explained recruitment, new facilities, policy updates and the types of training and support available to help prepare the workforce for change.
- BC added Rix's Creek was one of the few mines that have multiple skills-base where apprentices/trainees come out with three or four skills where everywhere else is generally just one skill.
- DO asked if the exploration licence had been received, TH advised not yet and the requested documentation had been provided.
- DO commented that there had been massive change for women in workforce since 1982, noting girls today have a better management plan than the way she was treated.
- LA advised that she would send out the current version of this CCC's Terms of Reference, which is due for review. Members to provide any comments.
- LA informed members about recent correspondence from the Secretary, DPHI asking Chairs to remind proponents and members of their obligations under the CCC Guideline, Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct & Pecuniary Interest declarations.

## **NEXT MEETING**

- 9am, Tuesday 27 October at Rix's Creek North Administration Building with site inspection to include historic coke ovens.
- Meeting closed at 10.26am

## **Action items**

| <b>Item</b> | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Responsibility</b> |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1           | Send through Falbrook Pit EPBC referral number raised in meeting       | DO                    |
| 2           | Include photos of heritage items in next presentation.                 | CK                    |
| 3           | Include coke ovens in next site visit.                                 | CQ                    |
| 4           | Provide historical information ownership and operations from the 1870s | CK                    |
| 5           | Send CCC Terms of Reference to members for review                      | LA                    |