



Rix's Creek Mine News

Community Newsletter – February 2024

An update from Brendon Clements, Operations Manager at Rix's Creek Mine

We've entered 2024 after a successful 2023 at The Bloomfield Group's Rix's Creek Mine (RCM).

Through The Bloomfield Group Foundation, our operations continued support for the Singleton community and its surroundings. Just some of the community organisations we've recently supported include the Singleton Neighbourhood Centre, Singleton PCYC, Business Singleton, Singleton Netball Association, Singleton Hospital, Singleton Salvation Army and Singleton Men's Shed.

Our support for the community is extended through our role in the Singleton Community and Economic Development Fund (CEDF). The CEDF was established by Singleton Council in partnership with The Bloomfield Group and Glencore in 2019 using proceeds from Voluntary Planning Agreements in a proactive approach to increase economic growth and productivity and promote health and wellbeing for the people of the Singleton local government area. Since the fund was established, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been made available to community organisations.

Our operations are performing well in rehabilitating mined areas. Another 14.7 ha of rehabilitation has been completed at Rix's Creek Mine since 1 April 2023.

As you would have read in our previous newsletters, our site continues to look to the future, with a number of approvals projects underway. In particular, there is the opportunity for our neighbours to take part in the **Social Impact Assessment** we are developing to inform the Environmental Impact Statement for our Rix's Creek North Continuation Project. You can read more about this later in this update.

And finally, our site continues its dedication to minimising any impacts on our surrounding community. I'm really proud of our crews and the Environmental Team and their efforts to maintain our place as good neighbours. This included introducing new equipment at RCM, including a fleet of 793F haul trucks. The trucks are more fuel efficient, reducing diesel emissions, and are fitted with a specifically engineered sound attenuation package contributing to ongoing site noise compliance. We are now in the process of bringing on four new drills, which are quieter and produce fewer emissions.

Operations

RCM continued to operate our Rix's Creek South (RCS) West Pit and Rix's Creek North (RCN) Camberwell Pit operations. Falbrook Pit at RCN is currently in care and maintenance, while the Arties pit at RCS is currently undergoing final shaping and rehabilitation.

RCM is commissioning evaporation fans to help remove excess mine water from the site. These fans are similar to ones used previously at RCN, but now include technology to reduce noise and other environmental impacts through significant sound attenuation and real-time meteorological controls, which will shut down the units during unfavourable conditions.

Approvals

We are progressing with work on our Rix's Creek North Continuation Project. This Project proposes continuing the life of mining operations at Rix's Creek North from 2035 (current approval) until the end of 2049. Operations are proposed to continue to the west, requiring relocating and upgrading of approximately four kilometres of the New England Highway to the north of Singleton.

We have engaged James Bailey and Associates to prepare a Social Impact Assessment for the Project. As one of our community stakeholders, we invite you to participate in a short interview discussing your views on the potential impacts and opportunities of the Project. Please register your interest by 4 March 2024 by contacting:

- Tegan Brown – Environmental Scientist
- 02 6536 2999
- tbrown@baileyassociates.com.au

We are also finalising plans for a minor Modification to the current RCN consent to enable some upgrades to the existing coal processing infrastructure and other general site infrastructure. This Modification (Mod 10) is currently planned to be submitted for assessment around April this year.

Land Management

Feral dog baiting and kangaroo management are conducted as needed. Letterbox drops will continue to inform our neighbours before this work is conducted.

Information and Blasting Hotline

Our community hotline operates 24 hours a day. If you have any questions about our operations, please contact 02 4930 2665.

Community Consultative Committee

The Rix's Creek Mine 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, and is an important forum for open discussion between the community, local government, stakeholders and Rix's Creek Mine representatives. If you have any enquiries about the CCC, please contact the Independent Chairperson, Lisa Andrews at lisaandrews.ic@gmail.com

About Rix's Creek Mine & The Bloomfield Group

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

The Bloomfield Group is a proud Australian owned and operated mining and engineering group. We have been part of the community for more than 85 years. We employ local people and work with local small businesses, and we support the Singleton area by investing in various community projects through the Bloomfield Group Foundation (www.bloomcoll.com.au/foundation).

Further Information

For further information about Rix's Creek Mine, please visit our website (www.bloomcoll.com.au) or call 02 4930 2600.

