

10 August 2018  
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Independent Planning Commission of NSW  
GPO Box 3415  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Commissioners,

**Response to Expert Advice on the Rix's Creek-Mine Schedule and Final Landform for Rix's Creek Mine - Continuation of Mining (SSD\_6300)**

The Bloomfield Group offer the following comments on the document titled "*Rix's Creek- Expert Advice on the Mine Schedule and Final Landform*" (here after referred to as the Review) by Deswik Mining Consultants (Australia) Pty Ltd (here after referred to as Deswik).

It is acknowledged that the Review by Deswik "did not reveal any fatal flaw with the current plan" and that "no practical means to significantly reduce the size of the final void were identified."

With reference to the three recommendations stated in the Review the Company provide the following comments;

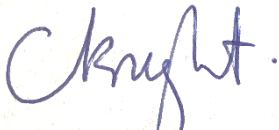
1. Increase in the slope angle of the Out of Pit Dump (OOPD) by Deswik may reduce the overall footprint by 17 ha however the company notes that an increase to the current 10 degree slope to 18 degrees may cause the following;
  - Potential loss of soil from the final rehabilitated landform and a subsequent deterioration in the productive capacity for cattle grazing as a final landuse.
  - Potential movement of soil materials and associated nutrients and chemicals into waterways and storages, associated with Deadmans Creek with consequent reductions in water quality as was raised by downstream landowners through the submissions process.
2. A trade-off study can be undertaken for increasing the height of the North Pit Dump with respect to re-disturbance of previously rehabilitated area and haulage cost. The Company did not consider this option as increased dumping elevations were not supported by the Department of Planning or the Department of Mineral Resources through the previous consent process.
3. Waste material from the areas recommended to be removed from the mining schedule is currently planned to be used to backfill the mining void at lower elevations. Not mining the areas stated will not reduce the size of the void but slightly change the location of the void in this area. Not mining the seams stated in these areas would also have a negative economic impact on the Project.

It is noted that the current approval of DA 49/94 expires on 24 June 2019 and required timeframes are now critical to the continuation of the current operation.

The independent Deswick report commissioned by the IPCN primarily supports the mine plan and schedule proposed by the Company for the Project. Taking this expert's endorsement of the work and plans presented by the Company, together with the relatively limited term remaining for the current consent, the Company requests that the IPCN consider the following as a reasonable way forward –

1. That the Project be approved generally as proposed by the Company and recommended by the Department of Planning and a new consent be awarded.
2. That should any additional investigations that may be specified by the IPCN, or another authority, result in an overall net improvement to the Project, then this improvement would be managed by a project modification to the new consent.

Yours sincerely



Chris Knight  
Environment Manager

**The Bloomfield Group - *Celebrating over 80 years in Business***

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