

This meeting is part of the review process.

Meeting note taken by: Robert Bisley

Date: 5 June 2018

Time: 1:30pm

Project: Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project (SSD 6300)

Meeting Place: Singleton Council Committee Room, Singleton Council office

Attendees:

Commission Members:

Mary O'Kane (Panel Chair), Andrew Hutton, Tony Pearson

Commission Staff:

David Mooney (Team Leader), Robert Bisley (Senior Planning Officer), Anna Summerhayes (Legal – Observer)

Singleton Council (Council):

Jason Linnane (General Manager), Mark Ihlein (Director), Mrs Mary-Anne Crawford (Manager)

Meeting Purpose:

For the Council to brief the Commission on the Rix's Creek Continuation of Mining Project (SSD 6300).

The following matters were discussed in the briefing with Council:

- Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA):
 - Council has experienced difficulty working with the VPA process.
 - Council's position is to collect 1% of Capital Investment Value through VPAs. Rix's Creek VPA contribution will be \$432,000.
 - Council historically used VPAs to deliver infrastructure requirements. This view is shifting and Council is now looking towards a future beyond mining.
 - A future fund (still to be official approved by Council) has been developed and Council are setting aside 70-80% of VPA funding towards Singleton's future with the remaining 20-30% put into infrastructure.
 - The future fund is being used to develop social capital and transition to industries than can exist once mining has left the region.
 - Council has been in discussions with the applicant and the applicant has agreed to support the development of Council's future fund.
- Future land use planning:
 - 50% of the local government area (LGA) is covered by mining leases (excluding national parks).
 - Council recognises the need to think strategically for the future.
 - The community wants to see the final land form of mines and rehabilitated land deliver economic opportunities to the LGA and not left as sterilised land.
 - The Commission asked Council what uses the community want to see in the future and Council stated that although they hadn't formally been asked, the community wants a diversity of uses.
 - The community wants a balance between rehabilitation, social and economic opportunity.
 - The Upper Hunter Synoptic Plan is being reviewed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet will provide Councils with some strategic guidance in future planning.
- Council has worked to minimise the impacts and interaction between the mine and residential growth in northern Singleton.
- Biodiversity offsets
 - The amount of land being set aside as offset land within the LGA is a concern to Council.
 - 10% of the local government area is now land that is offset for biodiversity.

- Council is also unable to charge rates on offset land and much of the land is not contiguous.
- Council expressed a concern as to who bears the responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of offset land in the long term.
- The Commission asked Council if they had any guidance on particular matters they would like the Commission to consider as part of the Review process. Council agreed to further think about the matter and provide more information to the Commission.
- The improve road and rail transport networks have opened up Singleton and given substantial opportunities for future tourism growth.
- Council highlighted two areas of specific concern in relation to the applicant's current proposal:
 - Operation of the VLAMP, particularly in circumstances where a property is entitled to acquisition rights from multiple nearby mines.
 - Application of the Achievable Noise Criteria rather than the Project Specific Noise Levels.

Documents: N/A

Outcomes/Agreed Actions:

Council agreed to provide the Commission with information on any particular matters they would like addressed as part of the review.

Meeting closed at: 2:15pm