

*Andrew Thomas*

Hello Ladies & Gentlemen, my name is Andrew Thomas and I am currently employed by The Bloomfield Group as an OCE at Rix's Creek Open Cut. I have worked within the mining industry for the past 15 years and have been employed at RC for the last 2 years.

The majority of my employment has been spent as the NS OCE at RCS. As an OCE our primary role is Health, Safety and Compliance. An essential part of this is to communicate effectively with our Environmental Officers and the wider community, to enable us to maintain our positive relations with the Community.

Our Environmental Officers continually conduct off-site noise monitoring to ensure that the operations noise levels do not exceed compliance levels.

Whenever I received a call concerning noise levels I would always encourage a positive attitude and be willing to help, as I feel that as OCE I have the biggest influence in making changes to the operation to minimising noise levels. Which is a huge advantage for our neighbours, as you are not dealing with a third party you are talk to the one point of contact to make changes.

One of the best cultural aspects of Rix's Creek is the team environment, which all levels of the workforce are working towards the same common goal. In my time at Rixs Creek I've never heard anyone fob an issue off to another department, everyone works together for a solution. A prime example of this, is the CEO's and company directors are regularly seen on-site by all levels of employment.

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The Bloomfield group are proudly Australian owned and have been operating successfully for the past 80+ years, and still continue to support many local organisations and charities. One in which I am personally involved with is the Mt Olive Community Centre, which is solely ran by volunteers of the local area. This Community Hall is a place of meeting, social events and numerous children's sports and recreations. Rix's Creeks is always seen giving back to the community.

I feel I am confidently speaking on behalf of myself and the 500+ other employees that we would like to see the Continuation of Rix's creek Mine; as I strongly believe there are huge benefits, not only to the employees but to the surrounding communities.

On a personal note my Wife and I have been born and raised in the Singleton district. We currently live on a small rural property raising beef cattle and breeding Australian Stock Horses at Mt Olive. We feel our two sons are very lucky to be growing up within this diverse Mining and Agricultural Community, which will continue to provide varied opportunities for their bright futures.

I thank you for your time and opportunity to speak here today. Let's continue to work together to maintain Bloomfields vision - Mining & Beyond - Success through innovation and our people - to strive for a sustainable and prosperous future for the generations to come.