

Mathew Stidolph

Hi All,

- Introduction - My name is Mathew Stidolph I'm the General Manager of Fluren a local small business. We have been providing rehabilitation services to the Rix's Creek mine since 2008.
- Rix's Creek is a leader within the mining community when it comes to Rehabilitation and the environment. Their rehabilitation is best practice for returning mining areas back to their natural state.
- Our role is to work closely with the Rix's Creek Environmental team to rehabilitate the mine area. To do this the areas landform shapes are designed and constructed to create a final contoured landscape that is stable and visually attuned with the surrounding natural area.
- Original topsoil is then spread back over the re-contoured landform which is rich in nutrients and maintains the seedbank.
- Bio solids are then spread using a tractor and spreader and integrated into the topsoil and then sown with pasture and or native tree seed.
- As you can see the areas that are rehabilitated are then available for grazing.
- Another part of the rehab includes building habitat areas for native animals, this involves building rock structures and standing hollow logged trees allowing for birds and other fauna to nest and breed. Tube stock is also planted to create habitat corridors.

I believe that Rix's Creek and the Bloomfield Group do an outstanding job of returning mining areas back into workable grazing land and animal habitat areas.

I also believe the economic value for Rix's Creek ^{with} ~~in~~ continued mining is significant. We are just one of many businesses that benefit from Rix's Creek being in operation. Businesses like Fluren employ local people which helps money flow through the community.

Other small local companies also see the benefits of Rix's Creek as they require additional services to meet their needs.

The flow on effects of Rix's Creek being given permission to continue mining are huge to Hunter Valley and Newcastle areas. ~~It may be the local builder has new houses to build because employees and or contractors of Rix's Creek can afford to build a new home. The local tyre repair shop can afford to employ another staff member.~~ ^{Positives} The flow on ^{with} from Rix's Creek getting approval to the local economy is significant and should not be underestimated. It will boost our local economy and that is exactly what we need.

The benefits of Rix's Creek mine flow right through the community and with added money flowing into local businesses companies can afford to sponsor local sporting teams and donate to charities. I know that Fluren has donated over \$10,000 alone this year to local sporting organisations and charities. Over the years the Bloomfield Group has donated tens of thousands of dollars to charities from the Cancer Council to the local SES.

In summing up, approval for a mining extension to this mine is a real positive for the people of the Hunter Valley and Newcastle area. It is nice to have an Australian Mining Company do good things in our region.