

Good Morning,

My name is Tim Dagg.

Thank you for allowing me to speak in favour of the proposal, for Rix's Creek Mine's, consent to go ahead.

I could stand here and talk about all the controls the company will put into place, to make sure all consent conditions are adhered to, but I'll leave that to the professionals.

I would like to get more personal, I have worked at Rix's Creek Mine since April 1995. Rix's Creek Mine is a family based and Australian owned mine, fairly unique in this day and age. I live in Muswellbrook, although I was born in Singleton.

My family has a rich history in farming around the Singleton area. My Father farmed at Scott's Flat and then at Lemington, now many of my family members work in the Mining Industry.

At Rix's Creek Mine there are two generations of my family members, that work at the mine. There are also many Fathers, Sons and Daughters from the same families working here.

This company has been family orientated from its humble beginnings. It's easy to see why so many of the same family members work for the company and usually stay until retirement.

It would be wonderful, if these family members could still be working at Rix's Creek Mine until they reach retirement age.

A prime example of the fulfilment in seeing family members of Rix's Creek Mine develop in the company, is our present mine manager, who has proudly followed in his father's footsteps in joining this mine.

I also have had my own experience, as my son has worked as a weekend machine cleaner at a young age, which installed a great work ethic, allowing him to acquire work in other industries associated with the Mining Industry.

When I started to work at Rix's Creek the workforce was no more than around 20, but now the company provides work for over 500 people. The Bloomfield Group has been good for the Singleton district as it supports local businesses, schools and sporting groups around the district. Regular donations are made to the Cancer Council, particularly Relay For Life events in surrounding communities.

I could more than likely talk for some time about the company as I am proud to work for them, but I will leave you with a short story about my late Grandfather (my Mothers Father) who was a farmer at Lemington.

When I was between 6 to 10 years old, some 50 odd years ago, my Grandfather and I would go up to the hill paddock, (as he called it) and pick up lumps of coal off the ground around the scrubby trees. We would take the lumps of coal down to the Homestead to burn in the open fires to keep us all warm in the winter time.

I will always remember what he use to say to me back then, that was, one day this barron land with all this coal will bring good fortune to the surrounding community and families.

That is certainly the case today as my family and many other families have had great opportunities from working at Rix's Creek Mine. My Grandfather would be surprised, to see how well the land looks now, after rehabilitation supporting cattle, and to think the same land would hardly sustain sheep.

So in conclusion I hope you might consider not only the families that work for Rix's Creek Mine but the flow on effects and benefits to the wider community and businesses.

I thank you for your time.