

Good Morning Commissioners,

I am Wendy Bowman. I am an immediate neighbour to the Rix's Creek Mine.

I met you on the mine tour held in June last year while you were reviewing the Continuation Project.

My property "Rosedale" is used for intensive agriculture: breeding and growing out cattle, growing crops for silage and hay, and growing green feed for cows with calves.

I have had a long association with the Bloomfield Company. They gave me 2 week's notice to leave my long term family home, 'Granbalang', which caused great heartbreak for me and my daughters.

My key concern with the current operations at Rix's Creek Mine is when there is a south easterly wind, even a light one, the dust is blown straight towards me. These are the prevailing winds in this part of the valley. Depending on the wind, there is also noise coming from the mine.

I am regularly aware of the blasts and there are times when the blast emissions come over the hill to my place.

These are not minor impacts from the current mining operations. Under its current approval this mine is supposed to be closing by June this year. If this happened, I would no longer have the mine dust, blast fumes, noise, diesel emissions coming at me from the south east.

The combined impacts from all the mines surrounding my property have never been properly assessed or considered.

If you were going to approve an additional 9 months of mining at Rix's Creek South, then the current impacts from the mine must be assessed under the new standards and they must be assessed with the combined impacts of all the mines in the area.

I am very concerned that the nitrous oxides from all the blasts in this area is not being monitored by anyone.

I had my lungs tested about 12 or so years ago. I have recognisable dust on my lungs. I blame the increase in open cut coal mining around me for this condition.

Here I have a sample of dust that is always in my house. It doesn't matter how often I clean my house there is always this black sludge on all surfaces. A combination of mining, diesels engines and power station fallout.

If Rix's Creek South stopped mining in June, then at least one source of this massive air pollution would be gone from this area.

When a north westerly wind blows, the dust from Rix's Creek goes straight to the Maison Dieu industrial area and the new housing estate and likely into the Singleton township especially during the night air flow or katabatic drift that flows down the Valley.

I am particularly worried about the health of the children in the area. It's ok for someone my age to have dust on my lungs, I've already lived the best part of my life. But for young children with their whole lives ahead of them, it is a tragedy that we have to live in such a highly polluted environment.

Rix's Creek Mine is the closest to Singleton, particularly Singleton Heights, where there are several schools and many young families.

The environmental, health and social impacts from this mine are not minor and have not been properly assessed. The current impacts must be assessed before you can make an informed decision on whether the mining should continue for another 9 months.

Because of the combined impacts of mining already occurring in this area, the proposed Continued Operations Project, cannot be approved. Therefore, it would be better for everyone if the mine stopped, as currently required under the existing conditions.

I strongly disagree with the Department of Planning that Rix's Creek South has minor environmental impacts. These impacts have not been assessed.

Commissioners, you cannot approve this Modification 10 with the information before you.