

The Independent Planning Commission of New South Wales.  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000.

11 October 2019.

RE: Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project SSD 6300.

Dear Commissioners,

I am an environmental scientist with a Master's Degree with Distinction in Environmental Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Science (Geology) from the University of Newcastle. I have over 20 years coal mining experience and two and a half (2 ½) years' experience as a senior environmental regulator with NSW Government. I am also currently studying towards a Masters in Environmental Law.

I write to the commission in strong support of the Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project SSD 6300.

Following the invitation made by the IPCN on 25 September, and extended on 4 October, to comment on the additional information provided by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Department) (dated 24 September 2019), I provide the following comments and observations.

- An exhaustive and comprehensive review of the Project over an extended period has resulted in multiple recommendations that the project "*is in the public interest and is approvable, subject to strict conditions*" from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in May 2018, June 2019.
- The Department has further comprehensively addressed the issues raised by the IPCN in its 24 September response with a letter and attachments, referring to submissions previously made to the IPCN together with its own professional analysis. The additional information from the Department contained a lot of information presented previously and publically available and generally supported the project and Bloomfield's preferred option (Option 2).
- The information provided included Option 1 as requested by the IPCN. The Department's response to questions concerning Option 1 and 2 concluded that their recommendation for Option 2 was still considered to provide the best long term outcome.
- The air quality impacts have been updated to address acquisition of residences and properties at Camberwell.
- The project has had significant public support as demonstrated by speakers at the public meeting and the vast positive responses to public submissions.

Procedural fairness must be provided for both the Applicant and the Community. The further extension in time for comments to be received after making the Project Approval and Statement of Reasons (SOR) publically available (which was later withdrawn), in my opinion is not "procedurally fair", as essentially the IPCN has "shown it's cards" in regard to the

reason for the approval of the Project. The public provision of the SOR allows anyone against the project to provide comment in direct reference to the reason provided for the approval of the Project by the IPCN. I implore the IPCN as part of its review of any further submission received since the 4 October during the further extension of time for comments, not to give any consideration to any submission which refers to the temporarily published SOR or Project Approval as this would be biased and procedurally unfair to the Applicant.

I urge the IPCN to approve The Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project (SSD 6300) without further delay for the benefit of the people of New South Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Knight', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher Knight. MEnvMgt, BSc(Geol), MAIG, JP.

Resident of New South Wales.