



## PUBLIC HEARING AS RIX'S CREEK MINE SEEKS NEW LEASE OF LIFE

Tuesday 5 June 2018

A public hearing will be held in the Hunter tomorrow (Wednesday 6 June) as the state's Independent Planning Commission reviews plans to extend the life of a coal mine near Singleton.

Bloomfield Collieries Limited currently has approval to run Rix's Creek Mine, 5km northwest of Singleton, until June next year.

However, the company wants to expand the open cut coal mine and extend operations there until 2038. It's estimated an extra 25 million tonnes of product coal would be recovered over that period.

The Department of Planning and Environment has completed its preliminary assessment of the state significant development application and referred it to the Commission for a merit review with public hearing, as requested by the Minister for Planning.

Three members of the Commission – Professor Mary O'Kane (Chair), Mr Andrew Hutton and Mr Tony Pearson – will conduct the review before delivering a final report with recommendations to the Department.

The Commissioners met with the applicant and toured the mine and surrounding areas yesterday (Monday 4 June). They have also already held talks with the Department and Singleton Council.

Tomorrow's public hearing at the Charbonnier Hotel, Singleton, will provide them an opportunity to listen to the community's views about the proposal.

The Commission will accept written public submissions up to one week after the hearing.

Under changes to the state's planning laws which came into force on 1 March this year, decisions made by the Commission after a public hearing cannot be appealed on merit.

**For more information about the Rix's Creek Continuation Project, go to:**

<http://ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2018/05/rixs-creek-continuation-of-mining-project-ssd-6300>

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