To the IPC and greater Singleton Community,

I'd like to put forth my view on the Bloomfield Rix’s Creek coal mine extension applications and show my upmost support for the mine going forward.

I myself have worked in the mining industry for over ten years to which I owe so much. If it wasn't for mining, my partner would not have been able to work part time and study medicine and is now practicing at John Hunter Hospital address the greater hunter population’s ailments. This is all whilst building our first house and starting a family.

Speaking openly, open cut mines are far more exposed to environmental issues due to their method of mining. The best we can aim for is to minimise the environmental impact through flawless mine planning, processes, policy, controls and then scrutinising the monitoring of all of these. After working at several coal mines, in my honest opinion, Bloomfield Rix’s Creek mine would be of the highest standard of compliance.

The implications on myself if the Rix’s applications were unsuccessful would be detrimental on my family. It would most likely mean my position at Rix’s Creek would be made redundant. I would then be challenged with trying to find a job in the hunter along with other Rix’s workers. More than likely it would require to move away for work resulting in extra stress on my family or worse, forcing by partner to relocate as well where she would lose her much loved position at her current employment.

As I sit in my truck on this beautiful autumn morning overlooking the haze that was hovering over the valley, I'm left feeling embarrassed for our industry! In saying that I find comfort that here at Rix’s Creek we are exercising our controls for dust. I have no doubt, that if our controls were to fail, there would be no hesitation to stop the job until the correct conditions were achieved and allowing us to restart operations once compliant.

A huge positive here is the Bloomfield Group is an Australian owned company. Family owners, locally living people keeping profits in the hunter. Their businesses have created employment opportunities for locals for close to one hundred years! This could only have been possible by the company’s willingness to work with local towns and people, which is still obvious today.

Bloomfield's Rix’s Creek is devoted to meet and surpass any conditions that shall be handed down from the IPC. Once these conditions are met, a non-approval of their applications would be an attack on Australian’s freedoms to make a living in this great country of ours. A simple injustice!

Thank you for taking the time to take to review my submission and am looking forward to a positive result.

Regards

Travis Walker