Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to strongly object to the Rix’s Creek Mod 10. This area has suffered yet another incredibly dusty 24 hour period. When is enough, enough? People’s health and the health of the environment must be taken into account at some point surely?

The main points of my submission are:

1. There has been no assessment of impacts from an additional 9 months of mining on air quality, noise or blasting emissions

2. Air pollution in the Camberwell, Maison Dieu and Singleton area is already over the national standards

3. An additional 1.9Mt coal extraction will generate over 3Mt CO2 –e. No new coal should be extracted if we are to manage the climate emergency

4. Consideration of the Rocky Hill decision in regard to social impacts and climate change is relevant

5. Workers at Rix’s Creek South should continue employment on mine rehabilitation

6. This is an opportunity to start an orderly transition away from coal in the Hunter

The Rix’s Creek South mining lease runs out on June 24. It is the mine closest to Singleton.

A large continuation project to extend mining until 2038 is still in the approvals process. There have been strong objections lodged against this project.

This determination has been bogged down because Rix’s Ck illegally mined 96 ha outside the mining lease in 2017.

Mod 10 is aimed at keeping the mine operating for another 9 mths under current approval conditions until a decision is made on the bigger mine extension.

The air quality monitors at Camberwell, Maison Dieu (the closest neighbours) and those in Singleton regularly report air pollution levels above the national standard.

High time the Hunter Valley moves to a renewable and sustainable future.