



## **SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION**

**COWAL GOLD MINE EXTENSION MODIFICATION**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

This document is an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a modification to the Cowal Gold Mine (CGM), which is located approximately 38 kilometres (km) north-east of West Wyalong in New South Wales (NSW) (Figure 1-1).

Barrick (Cowal) Limited (Barrick) is the owner and operator of the CGM. Barrick is a wholly owned subsidiary of Barrick (Australia Pacific) Limited.

This EA has been prepared by Barrick to support a request to modify the CGM Development Consent (DA 14/98) under section 75W of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act) for the CGM Extension Modification (the Modification). A copy of the CGM Consolidated Development Consent (DA 14/98) is provided in Attachment 1.

The Modification involves the continuation and extension of open pit mining and processing operations at the CGM for an additional operational life of approximately 5 years (i.e. to 2024).

## 1.1 EXISTING COWAL GOLD MINE OVERVIEW

The location of the CGM is shown on Figures 1-1 and 1-2. A description of the existing CGM operations is provided in Section 2.

The current open pit mining operations are supported by on-site facilities including water management infrastructure/storages, a process plant and tailings storage facilities. Mined waste rock from the open pit is hauled to waste rock emplacements. Ore mined from the open pit is hauled direct to the primary crusher (adjacent the process plant), run-of-mine (ROM) pad or low grade ore stockpile prior to processing.

Gold is extracted from the ore using a conventional carbon-in-leach cyanide leaching circuit in the process plant. Tailings are pumped to the tailings storage facilities. The gold product is recovered and poured as gold bars or doré.

## 1.2 MODIFICATION OVERVIEW

The Modification involves continued operations at the existing CGM within Mining Lease (ML) 1535 (Figure 1-3) for an additional 5 years to allow an additional 0.7 million ounces (Moz) of gold production (i.e. a total of approximately 3.8 Moz over the life of the CGM incorporating the Modification).

In general, there would be no change to the existing functionality of the CGM due to the Modification, as the Modification would involve:

- continued mining in the existing open pit for the extraction of gold-bearing ore and waste rock;
- continued use of existing waste rock emplacements for the placement of waste rock extracted from the open pit;
- continued use of existing ore processing infrastructure; and
- continued use of tailings storage facilities for the storage of tailings associated with ore processing.

To allow the increase in the total gold produced over the life of the CGM, extensions to the surface area and depth of the existing open pit would be required to access additional gold-bearing ore.

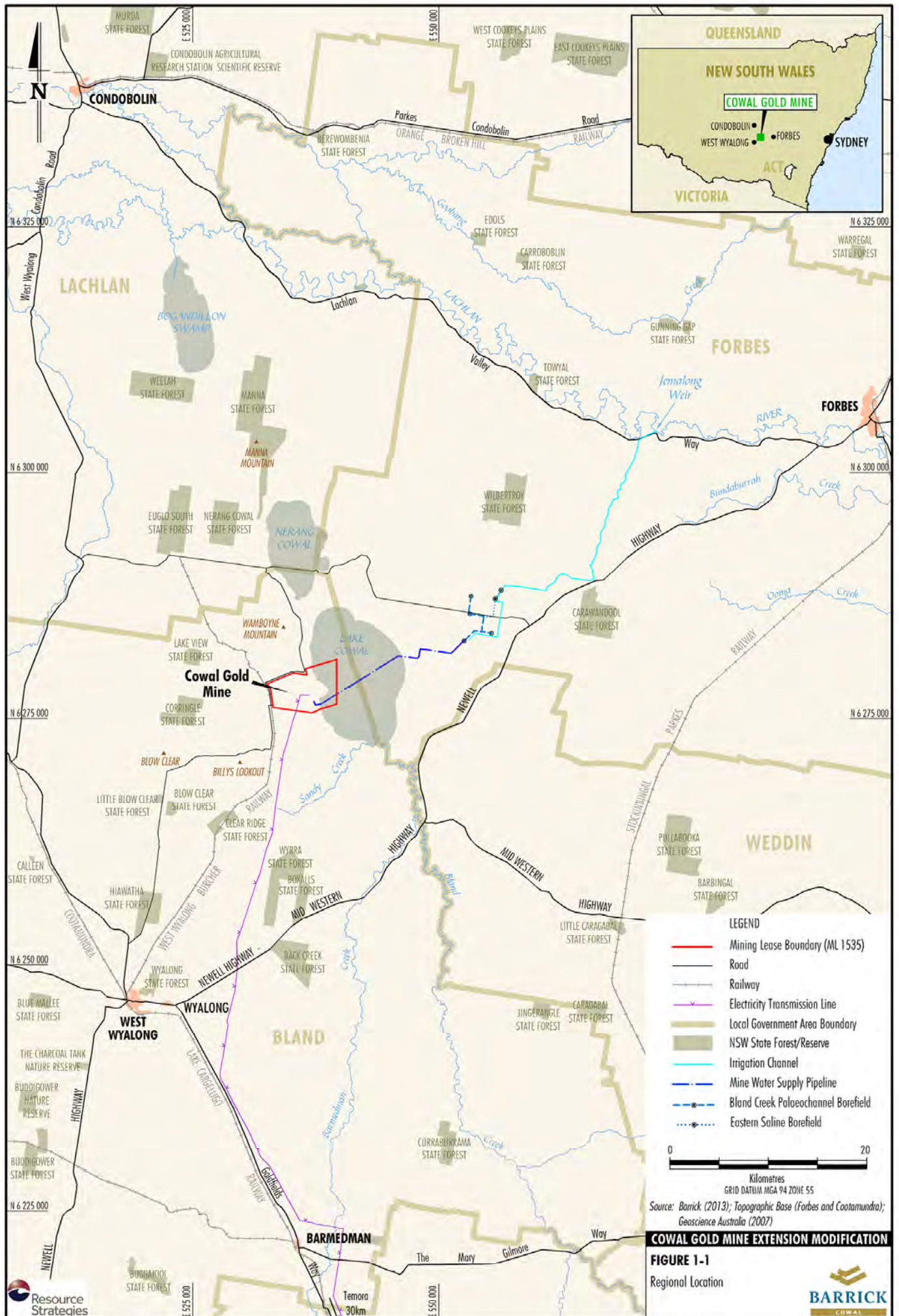
The extended open pit area would be within approved disturbance areas and would not change the existing isolation system that currently separates the open pit from Lake Cowal (comprising the temporary isolation bund, lake protection bund and perimeter waste rock emplacement).

Existing CGM infrastructure would continue to be used for the Modification, with some alterations where necessary, including the expansion of existing waste rock emplacements.

Table 1-1 provides a summary comparison of the approved CGM operations and the Modification components.

The Modification involves **no change** to the following key components of the existing CGM:

- mining tenements;
- lake isolation system;
- existing surface development extent of the CGM within Lake Cowal;
- water management design objectives;
- mining methods;
- ore processing rate;
- ore processing infrastructure;
- tailings storage facilities footprints;
- cyanide destruction method;
- approved cyanide concentration limits in the aqueous component of the tailings slurry;













- water supply sources;
- approved daily or annual extraction limits of the Bland Creek Palaeochannel Borefield;
- site access road;
- power supply;
- exploration activities;
- peak annual employment; or
- hours of operation.

**Table 1-1**  
**Summary Comparison of Approved Cowal Gold Mine and the Modification**

Development Component	Approved CGM <sup>1</sup>	The Modification <sup>2</sup>
Tenement	Development approved to occur within the Development Application areas, including ML 1535.	No change.
Mining Method	Open pit mining operations.	No change.
Gold Production	Producing a total of approximately 3.1 Moz of gold over the life of the CGM.	Continued gold production, producing a total of approximately 3.8 Moz of gold over the life of the CGM incorporating the Modification.
Life of Mine	15 year operational life of the CGM.	20 year operational life of the CGM (i.e. an additional 5 years).
Disturbance Area	Disturbance area of approximately 1,095 hectares (ha).	Additional disturbance area of approximately 122 ha.
Open Pit Extent	Open pit developed in stages as it is progressively widened and deepened. Open pit area of approximately 107 ha.	Continued development of the open pit in stages as it is progressively deepened and widened within the existing disturbance area. Total open pit area of approximately 131 ha.
Ore Production and Processing	Approximately 99 million tonnes (Mt) of ore produced over the life of the CGM.	Approximately 128 Mt of ore produced over the life of the CGM incorporating the Modification.
	Gold extracted from the ore using a conventional carbon-in-leach cyanide leaching circuit. Ore processing rate of up to 7.5 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa).	No change.
Waste Rock Management	Mined waste rock emplaced in the northern, southern and perimeter waste rock emplacements over the life of the CGM. Total waste rock emplacement area of approximately 380 ha.	Extension of the existing northern waste rock emplacement to the west. Total waste rock emplacement area of approximately 419 ha.  Stockpiling of mineralised material adjacent to the northern waste rock emplacement to a maximum design height of approximately 273 metres (m) Australian Height Datum (AHD).
	Northern waste rock emplacement to be constructed to a maximum design height of 266 m AHD.	Raising of the northern waste rock emplacement maximum design height to approximately 308 m AHD.
	Southern waste rock emplacement to be constructed to a maximum design height of 250 m AHD.	Raising of the southern waste rock emplacement maximum design height to approximately 283 m AHD.
	Perimeter waste rock emplacement to be constructed to a maximum design height of 223 m AHD.	No change.
Soil Management	Soil resource management strategies/objectives applied in accordance with the existing Erosion and Sediment Control Management Plan.	Continued application of soil resources management strategies/objectives in accordance with the existing Erosion and Sediment Control Management Plan.  Development of new soil stockpiles (including soil stockpile located in the north of ML 1535).

**Table 1-1 (Continued)**  
**Summary Comparison of Approved Cowl Gold Mine and the Modification**

Development Component	Approved CGM <sup>1</sup>	The Modification <sup>2</sup>
Tailings Storage Facilities	Tailings deposited in two tailings storage facilities (northern and southern).	No change. Top surfaces of tailings storage facilities subdivided into two cells (i.e. four cells in total available for tailings deposition).
	The tailings storage facilities footprints cover an area of approximately 350 ha.	No change.
	Northern and southern tailings storage facilities to be constructed to a maximum design height of 243 m AHD and 248 m AHD, respectively.	Raising the maximum design height of the northern and southern tailings storage facilities to approximately 248 m AHD and 255 m AHD, respectively.
Cyanide Concentration Levels	<p>Use of cyanide in accordance with a Cyanide Management Plan. Cyanide concentrations in the aqueous component of the tailings slurry stream not to exceed the following at the discharge point to the tailings storage facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 milligrams per litre (mg/L) weak acid dissociable cyanide (CN<sub>WAD</sub>) (90<sup>th</sup> percentile over 6 months); and</li> <li>30 mg/L CN<sub>WAD</sub> (maximum permissible limit at any time).</li> </ul>	No change.
Cyanide Destruction	Cyanide destruction would be achieved using Caro's Acid or INCO process.	No change.
Water Supply Sources and Infrastructure	<p>Water used for ore processing is sourced from the following internal and external sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Return water from the tailings storage facilities.</li> <li>Open pit sump and dewatering borefield.</li> <li>Rainfall runoff from mine waste rock emplacements, and other areas which is collected as part of the Internal Catchment Drainage System (ICDS) in contained water storages.</li> <li>Saline groundwater supply borefield which is pumped from four<sup>3</sup> production bores located in the south-east of ML 1535.</li> <li>Eastern saline borefield<sup>4</sup> located approximately 10 km east of Lake Cowal's eastern shoreline.</li> <li>Bland Creek Palaeochannel Borefield which comprises four production bores within the Bland Creek Palaeochannel located approximately 20 km to the east-northeast of the CGM.</li> <li>Licensed water accessed from the Lachlan River which is supplied via a pipeline from the Jemalong Irrigation Channel (i.e. Bore 4 offtake).</li> </ul>	<p>No change to existing water supply sources.</p> <p>Additional total water requirement over the life of the mine due to the increase in mine life.</p> <p>A new pump station and associated diesel generator and access track would be constructed on the eastern side of Lake Cowal adjacent to the existing mine water supply pipeline to improve capacity/flows.</p> <p>A new water supply storage (D10) would be constructed within ML 1535.</p>



**Table 1-1 (Continued)**  
**Summary Comparison of Approved Cowal Gold Mine and the Modification**

Development Component	Approved CGM <sup>1</sup>	The Modification <sup>2</sup>
Bland Creek Palaeochannel Borefield Extraction Limits	<p>The maximum extraction of water from the Bland Creek Palaeochannel would not exceed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 megalitres per day (ML/day);</li> <li>3,650 megalitres per annum (ML/annum); and</li> <li>30,000 megalitres (ML) life of mine.</li> </ul> <p>Extraction is managed to maintain groundwater levels above the established NSW Office of Water (NOW) trigger levels.</p>	<p>No change to existing daily or annual extraction limits.</p> <p>Extraction would continue to be managed over the life of the CGM incorporating the Modification to maintain groundwater levels above the established NOW trigger levels.</p>
Site Water Management Infrastructure	<p>The existing CGM water management infrastructure is comprised of the following major components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up-catchment Diversion System (UCDS) and the ICDS (including the contained water storages);</li> <li>lake isolation system (comprising the temporary isolation bund, lake protection bund and perimeter waste rock emplacement);</li> <li>integrated erosion, sediment and salinity control system; and</li> <li>open pit sump and dewatering borefield.</li> </ul>	<p>No change to the design objectives of the existing CGM water management infrastructure.</p> <p>No change to the UCDS.</p> <p>The existing contained water storage D5 would be modified to accommodate the extension of the open pit.</p> <p>A new contained water storage/sediment dam would be required for the soil stockpile catchment area located in the north of ML 1535.</p> <p>No change to lake isolation system and, therefore, no change to the existing surface development extent of the CGM within Lake Cowal.</p> <p>Some dewatering bores would be relocated as the open pit extends beyond the currently installed bores around its perimeter.</p>
Power Supply Activities	Electricity to the site via a 132 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission line (ETL) from Temora, approximately 90 km south of the CGM.	No change.
Exploration	Exploration activities undertaken within ML 1535 in accordance with existing tenement.	No change.
Site Access Road	Site access road following existing roads from West Wyalong to the CGM. Light vehicle access from Condobolin and Forbes.	No change.
Hours of Operation	24 hour operations, seven days a week.	No change.
Employment	The average workforce employed at the CGM is currently approximately 385 people (including Barrick staff and on-site contractor's personnel). During peak periods, the CGM employs up to 435 people.	No change, however, there would be an additional 5 years of employment for up to approximately 385 personnel.

<sup>1</sup> Approved CGM approved in February 1999 as modified on 11 August 2003, 22 December 2003, 4 August 2004, 23 August 2006, 12 March 2008, 11 February 2009, 28 August 2009, 10 March 2011, 17 January 2011 and 6 July 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Proposed modification to the approved CGM.

<sup>3</sup> Barrick has currently installed only two of the four approved production bores.

<sup>4</sup> The operation of the eastern saline borefield was approved separately under the EP&A Act.

### 1.3 STRUCTURE OF THIS EA

This EA is structured as follows:

Section 1	Provides an overview of the approved CGM, the nature of the Modification and a summary of the consultation undertaken in relation to the Modification.
Section 2	Provides a description of the approved CGM.
Section 3	Provides a description of the Modification.
Section 4	Provides a review of the existing environment, assesses potential impacts associated with the Modification and describes the existing CGM environmental management systems and proposed measures to manage and monitor any additional potential impacts.
Section 5	Describes the proposed rehabilitation of the Modification.
Section 6	Provides the planning framework and justification for the Modification.
Section 7	Lists references referred to in Sections 1 to 7 of this EA.
Section 8	Lists abbreviations, acronyms and terms referred to in Sections 1 to 7 of this EA.

Attachments 1 to 5 and Appendices A to I provide supporting information as follows:

Attachment 1	Cowel Gold Mine Consolidated Development Consent.
Attachment 2	DP&I Consultation.
Attachment 3	Peer Review Letters.
Attachment 4	Community Consultation Information.
Attachment 5	Aquifer Interference Policy and Water Licensing Addendum.
Appendix A	Hydrogeological Assessment.
Appendix B	Hydrological Assessment.
Appendix C	Geochemistry Assessment.
Appendix D	Threatened Species Assessment.
Appendix E	Noise and Blasting Impact Assessment.

Appendix F Air Quality Impact Assessment.

Appendix G Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Appendix H Socio-Economic Assessment.

Appendix I Rehabilitation Proposal.

### 1.4 CONSULTATION

Consultation has been conducted with key state government agencies, local councils, the local community and Aboriginal stakeholders during the preparation of this EA. A summary of this consultation to date is provided below.

Consultation will continue during the public exhibition of this EA and the assessment of the Modification.

#### 1.4.1 State Government Agencies

##### *NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure*

Barrick met with the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I) in August 2012 and March 2013 to discuss the Modification.

Key issues discussed with the DP&I were the scope of environmental assessment for the Modification and the assessment and approvals process.

Following consultation with the DP&I, Barrick prepared the *Cowel Gold Mine Extension Modification - Modification Description and Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA)* (dated May 2013) (Barrick, 2013a). The PEA provided a description of the Modification, a qualitative assessment of the likelihood of potential impacts associated with Modification, as well as the proposed scope of environmental assessment for this EA.

An application to modify the CGM Development Consent (DA 14/98) under section 75W of the EP&A Act, supported by the PEA, was provided to the DP&I in May 2013.

Following this, the DP&I provided a letter dated 22 July 2013 (Attachment 2) providing recommendations regarding the scope of the Modification, which are summarised as follows:

- detailed consideration of the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy (NOW, 2012) (Attachment 5);
- an assessment of the potential impacts on land resources, including agricultural resources (Section 4.7);

- justification for the proposed final land form and final void, including consideration of alternatives that would avoid or minimise the size and extent of the final void (Section 6); and
- a description of the consultation process undertaken during preparation of the EA, including with relevant government authorities, Bland and Forbes Shire Councils, relevant Aboriginal groups and potentially affected landowners (Section 1.4).

### **NSW Office of Environment and Heritage**

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) was provided a copy of the PEA.

Barrick met with the OEH in July 2013 to present an overview description of the Modification and proposed scope of environmental assessment.

Following this consultation, the OEH provided a letter dated 15 July 2013 which recommended environmental assessment requirements relating to biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural heritage. These assessment requirements have been considered in Appendices D and G, respectively.

In addition, the OEH was consulted, in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW], 2010a), for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) prepared for the Modification.

### **NSW Environment Protection Authority**

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) was provided with a copy of the PEA.

Barrick met with the EPA in June 2013, to present an overview description of the Modification and proposed scope of the environmental assessment.

Following this consultation, the EPA provided a letter dated 28 June 2013 which recommended environmental assessment requirements relating to:

- air quality (Appendix F);
- noise impacts (Appendix E);
- water resources (Appendices A and B);
- land resources (Appendices C and I and Sections 4 and 5); and
- waste and chemicals (Sections 3.11 and 4.10).

### **NSW Office of Water**

The NOW was provided a copy of the PEA.

Barrick met with the NOW in June 2013, to present an overview description of the Modification and proposed scope of environmental assessment.

Following this consultation, the NOW provided a letter dated 18 July 2013 which recommended environmental assessment requirements relating to water resources and water licensing. These assessment requirements have been considered in Appendices A and B, and Attachment 5, respectively.

### **NSW Division of Resources and Energy (within the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services)**

The NSW Division of Resources and Energy (within the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services [DTIRIS]) (DRE) was provided a copy of the PEA.

Barrick met with the DRE in July 2013, to present an overview description of the Modification and proposed scope of environmental assessment.

### **Other NSW State Government Agencies**

In addition to the consultation described above, a copy of the PEA was provided to the following NSW state government agencies:

- NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) (Agriculture and Fisheries);
- NSW Roads and Maritime Services;
- Transport for NSW; and
- Lachlan Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

### **1.4.2 Local Councils**

CGM mining within ML 1535 is located within the Bland Local Government Area (LGA), while the Bland Creek Palaeochannel and eastern saline borefields are located within the Forbes LGA (Figure 1-1). In addition, one of the preferred access routes to the CGM (i.e. from Condobolin) is located within the Lachlan LGA.

Barrick has consulted with the Bland Shire Council, Forbes Shire Council and Lachlan Shire Council for the Modification.



The CGM General Manager provided the Bland Shire Council with an overview of the Modification description at a presentation in West Wyalong in April 2013.

In June 2013, Barrick provided the Bland Shire Council, Forbes Shire Council and Lachlan Shire Council with a fact sheet describing the Modification (Attachment 4).

In addition, the Community Environmental Monitoring and Consultative Committee (CEMCC) consists of representatives from the Bland, Forbes and Lachlan Shire Councils (Section 1.4.4).

#### **1.4.3 Infrastructure Owners and Service Providers**

Key infrastructure providers (Essential Energy and State Water [as part of the consultation with the NOW]), were provided with information describing the Modification in July 2013.

#### **1.4.4 Public Consultation**

##### ***Community Environmental Monitoring and Consultative Committee***

The CEMCC was established in accordance with Condition 8.7 of the CGM Development Consent (DA 14/98). The CEMCC currently consists of:

- four community representatives (including one member of the Lake Cowal Landholders Association);
- one representative of the Lake Cowal Foundation (LCF);
- one representative of the Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation (WCC);
- one representative of the Bland Shire Council;
- one representative of the Forbes Shire Council;
- one representative of the Lachlan Shire Council;
- an independent chairperson; and
- two representatives of Barrick.

The CEMCC provides a mechanism for ongoing communication between Barrick and the community.

The CEMCC holds quarterly meetings, and consultation regarding the Modification was conducted during the March and June 2013 meetings. A copy of the PEA was also made available to all CEMCC members at the June 2013 meeting.

##### ***Bland Creek Palaeochannel Water Users Group***

A copy of the PEA for the Modification was provided to the Bland Creek Palaeochannel Water Users Group. Further description of the Modification will be provided at the next annual Bland Creek Palaeochannel Water Users Group meeting (scheduled for September 2013).

##### ***Local Community and Affected Landowners***

During the preparation of the EA, Barrick prepared a Modification fact sheet that was distributed to the local community in June 2013, including the "Coniston", "McLintock", "Westlea", "Gumbelah" and "Cowal North" properties (Figure 1-2). The fact sheet provided a description of the Modification and assessment and approvals process.

Feedback received from the local community was that key issues were in relation to potential noise, blasting and visual impacts and that these aspects should be considered in the EA.

Potential noise and blasting impacts associated with the Modification are provided in Appendix E and Sections 4.5 and 4.10.3. An assessment of potential visual impacts, including visual simulations at key sensitive viewpoints, is provided in Section 4.8.

##### ***Aboriginal Community***

A detailed description of the consultation undertaken, in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010a), for the ACHA prepared for the Modification with the registered Aboriginal parties/groups during the preparation of this EA is provided in Appendix G.

## **1.5 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND INVOLVEMENT**

Barrick's overall commitment to the communities where operations are located, and to society as a whole, is defined in Barrick's Corporate Social Responsibility Charter.

In addition to the Charter, Barrick's commitment to corporate social responsibility is further demonstrated with its inclusion on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for the third consecutive year. The index measures companies against a variety of international standards relating to corporate social responsibility.

Barrick has established a number of community initiatives and consultation programmes which are ongoing at the CGM and are described below. Barrick's ongoing community involvement is documented each year in the Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR).

### ***CGM Site Visits and Community Open Days***

Barrick regularly extends invitations to various stakeholders to visit the CGM. Visitors to the CGM have included:

- neighbouring landholders;
- representatives from local shire councils;
- interested Aboriginal stakeholders;
- representatives from local water user groups and farmers;
- various community and charity groups; and
- various primary and secondary schools.

Community open days and family visit days are conducted on an annual basis with more than 500 people in attendance. Barrick also attends several off-site presentations involving the community including:

- local community and charitable groups;
- Bland Shire Council, Forbes Shire Council and Lachlan Shire Council events;
- local businesses;
- local primary and secondary schools; and
- community and industry functions.

### ***Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation***

The Wiradjuri people are recognised as the Traditional Owners of the Lake Cowal area. Barrick has worked collaboratively with the Wiradjuri Council of Elders and the Registered Native Title applicants to negotiate an equitable Native Title Agreement (the Agreement) and Indigenous Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

Under the terms of the Agreement, signed in 2004, Barrick has agreed to support the Wiradjuri community in the areas of environmental and cultural heritage, employment, training and education and business development. This includes annual contributions to the Wiradjuri Study Centre located in Condobolin.

As a result of the Agreement, the WCC was established to facilitate the business, education and employment opportunities for the Wiradjuri people. The WCC, operated by the Wiradjuri people themselves, was created as the legal entity to support the development and implementation of the provisions within the Agreement. It also established the Wiradjuri Condobolin Cultural Heritage Company that Barrick has engaged to manage Wiradjuri heritage protection activities during the mine's development and ongoing operation.

### ***Lake Cowal Foundation***

The LCF was established as a non-profit, independent Environmental Trust in June 2000 and continues to be supported both financially and in-kind by the CGM. The Lake Cowal Conservation Centre (LCCC) was established in 2006 through a licence agreement between the LCF, the NSW Department of Education and Training, the Lachlan CMA and Barrick.

The LCCC is located on a Barrick-owned property immediately south of ML 1535 and was established to provide a community learning centre for school students, landholders and community members to learn about and experience issues associated with landscape management.

### ***Website and Community Call Line***

Barrick's website ([www.barrick.com](http://www.barrick.com)) provides updates on assessments and approvals relevant to the CGM and provides access to relevant environment and community information.

Barrick has established a dedicated Community Complaints Line (via phone [02] 6975 3454 or email [cgpcomplaints@barrick.com](mailto:cgpcomplaints@barrick.com)) that is available 24 hours, seven days a week for community members who have enquiries or who wish to lodge complaints in relation to Barrick's activities at the CGM.

A copy of this EA will be made available on Barrick's website.

### ***Media***

Media releases are regularly provided to local media outlets through newspapers (e.g. "West Wyalong Advocate").

### ***Cowal Partnering Program***

The Cowal Partnering Program was first developed in 2006 and is aimed at funding and supporting the local community in developing and implementing community based programmes. Since that time, Barrick has committed over \$750,000 in funding the Bland, Lachlan and Forbes LGAs.

The Cowal Partnering Program is administered by Barrick in accordance with the relevant guidelines. Community programmes considered for funding are targeted at the five key areas of health, environment, regional economic development, community development and community events. Preference is given to programmes that deliver long-term, sustainable benefits to the community and demonstrate broad support from the community.

In 2012, Barrick also set up the Cowal Legacy Fund in agreement with the Bland Shire Council, Forbes Shire Council and Lachlan Shire Council. The fund involves Barrick setting aside up to \$30,000 per year of any budgetted but unspent monies from the Cowal Partnering Program in a trust account for use by the Councils following the end of the CGM's operations.

### ***Barrick Buddies Program***

The Barrick Buddies Program offers \$250 to successful Barrick employee volunteers completing 25 or more hours of service to a charity, sporting or community group each year. The Barrick employee is then given the opportunity to present the funds to their nominated group.

### ***Community Scholarships***

Through the Barrick Endeavour Scholarship program, Barrick provides financial support for scholarship recipients living in Forbes, Lachlan and Bland LGAs to attend university.

### ***Community Committees and Organisations***

Barrick is also involved with numerous community committees and organisations including:

- Bland Catchment Management Committee;
- Lachlan CMA;
- Business West Wyalong;
- West Wyalong and Districts Country Education Foundation; and
- Events West Wyalong.

### ***Community Newsletters and Publications***

Barrick regularly publishes the "Cowal Update" newsletter to provide the community with an update on the CGM operations and involvement in community activities and sponsorships. The "Cowal Update" is mailed-out to households in the Bland, Lachlan and Forbes LGAs on a 6 monthly basis.

Barrick also publishes "The Babblers", an internal newsletter distributed to employees and their families to provide an update of site activities at the CGM, including updates regarding the Modification.

### ***Local Suppliers***

Barrick has more than 100 local and regional suppliers to the CGM, including from the engineering, automotive, clothing, newsagency and steel industries.

Approval of the Modification would allow Barrick to continue to support local suppliers to the CGM, providing additional security and longevity of economic benefits in the region.

### ***Public Reporting***

In accordance with the CGM Development Consent (DA 14/98), Barrick produces an AEMR to review the environmental performance of the development.

Barrick also produces an annual Responsibility Report according to the Global Reporting Initiative's *Sustainability Reporting Guidelines* available in printed format and on Barrick's website.

Information relevant to the CGM Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 11912 is available via a public register on the EPA's website ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)).

In 2006, the CGM became the first pre-operational facility in the world to achieve certification under the International Cyanide Management Code. The most recent independent professional re-certification audit occurred in February 2012 during which the operations were found to have maintained full compliance during the previous three years. The Summary Audit Report is made publicly available and can be accessed via the International Cyanide Management Institute website: [www.cyanidecode.org](http://www.cyanidecode.org).



In addition, Barrick (Australia Pacific) Limited is registered on the public National Greenhouse and Energy Register (established under section 16 of the Commonwealth *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act, 2007* [NGER Act]), which is publicly available on the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education website ([www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au)).

Barrick (Australia Pacific) Limited is also a registered participant of the Commonwealth Government's Energy Efficiency Opportunities programme which requires corporations to identify, evaluate and report publicly on cost effective energy savings opportunities.

Barrick also reports annually to the National Pollutant Inventory, which is publicly available on the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) website ([www.npi.gov.au](http://www.npi.gov.au)).