



6th November 2013

The Heart of NSW

Contact: J Boyce

NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
Attention: Alice Smith
23 – 33 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Alice,

Re: Proposed modification to the Cowal Gold Mine Project (DA14/98)

Thank you for your email to Council of 27 September 2013 in which you attach the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed modification to the Cowal Gold Mine. Lachlan Shire Council has historically provided its support to both the original development application and subsequent modifications to the Cowal Gold Mine (CGM) project and continues to do so.

As part of Councils consideration of the latest proposed modification, there has been both internal and external consultation with relevant parties.

Council along with the Shires of Bland and Forbes recently signed a Memorandum Of Understanding on road maintenance (MOU) with Barrick (Cowal) Ltd in which a funding committee (the committee) was established to allocate the funds provided by Barrick for road maintenance projects along the approved traffic routes for the CGM.

In October at the first meeting of the committee at which representatives of all parties to the MOU were in attendance, it was agreed that the preferred access route across Nerang Cowal Bogey Island not be supported into the future for the following reasons:

- High maintenance costs associated with this preferred access route;
- The road suffers from long periods of closure due to flooding and other wet weather events;
- More effective use of resources to focus on the present alternate route which is easier to maintain.
- This position was supported by both Forbes and Lachlan Shire Council representatives;

Lachlan Shire Council

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- o In accordance with the CGM Memorandum of Understanding a safety based priority listing of maintenance and improvement works to affected Council's road networks is to be prepared collaboratively in order to allocate the 2013 and 2014 Barrick road fund contributions.

The proposed modification to the CGM as outlined in the EA was subsequently considered by Council at its Ordinary Meeting of 23 October 2013. The Council resolved as follows:

- I. Support the proposed modification to the Cowal Gold Mine as outlined in the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by Resource Strategies dated 23 September 2013;
- II. Prepare a letter of support for the proposal, in accordance with the above recommendation, and this letter be forwarded to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (consent authority);
- III. Include in this letter of support, that Council recommends the removal of the Bogey island access route, as one of the approved access routes for the purposes of the Development Consent.

The above resolution forms the basis of Council's submission on the proposed modification to the CGM. Council appreciates the opportunity to provide this letter of support for this project as it provides continued economic and social benefits for the Lachlan Shire community in terms of continued employment opportunities and the additional social capital provided by a large corporate citizen.

Thank you in anticipation of your consideration of this submission, should you wish to discuss any of the observations made on behalf of Council, please contact me by email jim.boyce@lachlan.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 6895 1950.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew Johns

Director

Environment & Planning Department