



Philip Nevill
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Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
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Our reference: DOC21/148078-4

Advice provided via the Major Project Portal

Dear Mr Nevill,

Response to Submissions - Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development (SSD 10367)

Thank you for requesting our comments on the Response to Submissions (RTS) report for the state significant development (SSD 10367) Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development project.

Heritage NSW has reviewed the *Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development Project/Modification 16: Submissions Report* dated February 2021 and provides comments concerning Aboriginal cultural heritage matters below.

The RTS report has noted our comments on the exhibited Environmental Impact Statement. Heritage NSW is satisfied that assessments for the SSD have been undertaken to the required standards. We continue to support ongoing consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties as per the conditions of consent and the Indigenous Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

We note under section 3.3.1 (page 22) that additional Aboriginal cultural heritage studies have been undertaken by Evolution Mining CGO for a proposed accommodation village in West Wyalong. As it is intended that Bland Shire Council will be the determining authority for this additional development, we remind the proponent that any impacts that may occur to Aboriginal cultural heritage as part of the proposed accommodation village will require an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) issued by Heritage NSW.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact John Gilding, Archaeologist, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation – South, at Heritage NSW, on 0428 897 811, or email john.gilding@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Taylor
Senior Team Leader, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation - South
Heritage NSW
13 March 2021