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10 May 2021

Phillip Nevill
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Subject: SSD -10367, Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development

ABN 86 023 614 567
Administration Centre:
2 Court St Forbes NSW 2871
All correspondence to:
General Manager
PO Box 333
Forbes NSW 2871
General Enquiries:
T 02 68 502 300
F 02 68 502 399
After Hours Call Centre:
1300 978 633
Email & Web:
forbes@forbes.nsw.gov.au
www.forbes.nsw.gov.au

Dear Phillip

Thank you for referring the Response to Submissions report regarding SSD-10367, Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development to Forbes Shire Council for comment. Council has reviewed the response to submissions and has the below comments for your considerations.

West Plains Road and Newell Highway Intersection

Council notes that the applicant states that as their data reports their development will be responsible for 12% of the traffic movements at this intersection, they should not have to be solely responsible for this upgrade. This is an increase from 7%, directly caused by the proposed development. It is standard practice in NSW Development Assessment that the developer responsible for the trigger point is responsible for the intersection upgrade. Therefore, Council maintains that Cowal Gold Operations upgrade the intersection to a Basic Right. Council welcomes the advice previously from Evolution that they have commenced discussions with TfNSW regarding the Newell Highway and West Plains Rd intersection upgrades and a suitable funding source. Council will be pleased to issue a letter of support.

Council does note that very minimal mine-based traffic turns left into West Plains Road and therefore does not seek a Basic Left upgrade.

West Plains Road

Council considers that the upgrade of West Plains Road remains necessary. Council is aware of the current vehicle movements on West Plains Road and the deteriorating nature of the road as a result. Council also note the predicated traffic movements quoted in the traffic study, however, Council anticipate that significantly more mine related vehicles will utilise West Plains Rd especially as the number of mine site staff and contractors residing in Forbes continues to grow. Council recommends to the Department of Planning that the upgrade is provided as a Condition of Consent, and how this is financed can be negotiated as part of the Voluntary Planning Agreement.

Voluntary Planning Agreement

Council sees negotiating a VPA with Evolution Mining as an important step in consolidating the contribution and benefit the proposal will have to our community. Guidelines released by DPIE previously confirm that consideration of the nexus between the SSD project and the impost on the community both direct and indirect.

It is considered appropriate that both the host Council/Community and neighbouring Councils/Communities be included in a joint VPA with Evolution. This would mean a joint VPA with Bland, Lachlan and Forbes Shire Council to ensure fair and equitable distribution of any assistance negotiated.

Thank you for referring SSD10397, Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development to Forbes Shire Council for comment. Council wishes to be consulted on the proposed Conditions of Consent prior to determination of the application.

Should you have any further enquiries please contact Eliza Noakes, Town Planner, on (02) 6850 2300 (Option 1).

Yours sincerely



Steve Loane

GENERAL MANAGER