



25 August 2021

Department of Planning Industry & Environment  
Energy, Industry and Compliance - Planning and Assessment  
Locked Bag 5022  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

**Attention: Philip Nevill - Senior Environmental Assessment Officer**

Dear Philip,

**RE: SSD-10367 - Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development**

I am writing in reference to our conversation on Monday in relation to SSD 10367 which relates to the Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development.

Following ongoing discussions with the Applicant (Evolution Mining), in relation to the contributions it is looking to make to the community of Lachlan Shire Council, we are of the view that these contributions should be consolidated into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) due to the direct and indirect impacts on the community within our Shire. We would like to ensure that there continues to be a high degree of transparency throughout the VPA process and to continue to preserve the integrity of the development assessment process. It is important that the public can see what additional benefits Evolution Mining is offering to provide and believe that a VPA is the best way of doing this.

We support the position of Forbes Shire Council that a joint VPA be negotiated with Evolution Mining that includes Bland, Forbes and Lachlan Shire Councils to ensure that any assistance is fairly and equitably distributed between the affected communities.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this matter further with Evolution Mining and representatives from both Bland and Forbes Shire Councils.

Kind Regards,

Jon Shillito  
**Director**  
**Environment, Tourism and Economic Development**