

(Doc Id: 713194)

17 November 2020

Director Resource Assessment
Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Attention: Philip Neville

**Subject: Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development –
SSD-10367**

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 Philip,

Thank you for referring SSD-10367, Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development to Forbes Shire Council for comment on the proposal. Council notes that unfortunately the SEARs were not referred to Council for comment.

Traffic/Transport

The proponents report in the EIS that 10% of the existing Cowal Gold Mine workforce lives in Forbes, constituting approximately 40 staff members. The new proposal will increase this by approximately 25 people.

The EIS lacks details around preferred traffic routes from Forbes to the development site and whether these are suitable.

The existing transport route to Cowal Gold Mine is down the Newell Highway, turning right onto West Plains Road which is an unsealed road and following along to Bogies Island Road to the development site. The formation of West Plains Road has deteriorated due to the increase use by Cowal Gold Mine employees. The additional traffic movements proposed as part of this development application warrants transport upgrades along this route for the benefit of the mine as well as the wider community within this localised area.

Council recommends the following Conditions of Consent are placed on the Development Application:

- Prior to the commencement of any onsite construction work the intersection of the Newell Highway and West Plains Road are to be upgraded to provide a Basic Right Turn (BAR) treatment and Basic Left Turn (BAL) treatment to the satisfaction of Transport for NSW and Forbes Shire Council and in accordance with *Austrroads Guide to Road Design*.

A Section 138 Approval (Roads Act, 1993) from Council with Transport for NSWs concurrence is required for this work and an application must be received prior to the commencement of works accompanied by detailed engineering design.

- Prior to the commencement of any onsite construction work upgrade the entire length of both West Plains Road and Bogies Island Road to a bitumen sealed two-way, two-lane road to the satisfaction of Council and in accordance with *Austrroads Guide Road Design*.

A Section 138 Approval (Roads Act, 1993) from Council is required for this work accompanied by detailed engineering design. The application shall be received and approved prior to the commencement of works commencing on the road or within the road reserve.

Workers Accommodation

In Section 3.11.1 of the *Environmental Impact Statement*, the proponents propose to employ the majority of the Construction Workforce and “initial operational workforce” as fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) or drive-in-drive-out (DIDO) workers accommodated in *Temporary Workers Accommodation* in West Wyalong. However, Section 3.1.12 of the *Traffic Impact Assessment* states that 20% of the new workforce will be based in either Forbes or Lachlan Shire Councils. Council’s position on the matter is that only permanent residential employees are engaged to better underpin long term localised economic and community benefits to the three (3) Shires as a result of the expanded mining activity.

Council recommends the following Conditions of Consent are be placed on the Development Application:

- At least 50% of the construction and operational workforce are to live permanently in Bland, Forbes and Lachlan Shire Councils.
- At least 10% of the operational workforce are to be locally employed trainees.

Voluntary Planning Agreement

Forbes Shire Council wishes to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with the applicant as a result of this proposal and looks forward to DPIE’s assistance in this matter. Council’s position is that having the VPA discussion well in advance of the determination of the development assists both parties with surety of commitments moving forward.

Thank you for referring SSD-10367, Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development to Forbes Shire Council for comment. Council wishes to be consulted on the proposed Conditions of Consent prior to the determination being issued.

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

Kind regards,



Paul Bennett
Director Planning & Growth