



## **Blayney Shire Council**

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13 December 2023

Mr Clay Preshaw  
Executive Director, Energy and Resource Assessment  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Lodged by NSW Planning Portal

### **Submission – Cadia East Gold / Copper Project Modification 15**

Blayney Shire Council has a long history of productive working relationships with mining companies within the Blayney Shire.

Council acknowledges the positive economic stimulus (including rating income), employment, diversity of income and local business opportunities that are associated and created through hosting a mine such as Cadia Valley Operations.

In particular, Blayney Shire Council is home to;

- Newmont Corporation, Cadia Valley Operations (Cadia) (currently operational), and
- Regis Resources Limited, McPhillamys Gold Project (approved by IPC in 2023 not yet commenced).

Council notes the volume of information supplied with the Modification 15 application is significant and Council has not had the time and/or resources to fully critique all information provided.

Additionally, Council does not employ staff with the specialist skillset to interpret and/or provide comment on the numerous environmental related aspects of the proposed modification.

In this regard, Council and the community are heavily reliant on various NSW Government Agencies (including the NSW Department of Planning and Environment), and/or specialists engaged on their behalf, appropriately assessing any application and subsequently regulating any consent issued on an ongoing basis.

### **Voluntary Planning Agreement**

Council believes Newmont should enter into an upgraded and/or new Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) for the current project approval.

The existing VPA is now 10 years old and has been subject to 14 previous modifications (which did not trigger any additional VPA contribution).

For Blayney Shire, the 2023/24 VPA annual payment was \$64,502 which is not considered equitable nor adequate for the ongoing impact of the mine on Council's infrastructure.

The modification document indicates there will be an employment uplift as a result of Modification 15 which will have a direct social impact on Council's infrastructure and wider community (housing affordability in particular).

Council acknowledges Cadia does provide a wide range of support to all 3 impacted Councils and direct support to community based / not for profit groups across the wider region. However, Council should also not have to bear additional impacts without an adjustment to offset this impact.

### **Panuara Road**

Council does not agree to the repeated references throughout the Modification 15 documentation stating "*minor realignments of Panuara Road*". The proposed; closure, sale and major relocation of a key Blayney Shire Council public road is considered significant which requires further engagement and agreement.

Blayney Shire Council (as the authority responsible for road closures) highlights to the Department of Planning and Environment, Council is yet to formally resolve a position regarding the closure, sale, and relocation of Panuara Road.

In this regard, Council has contacted Newmont to commence discussions regarding the; closure, sale, realignment, and commercial compensation in relation to Panuara Road. The initial meeting is scheduled for 19 December 2023.

Council additionally needs to determine what will be the impact on Council's surrounding road network whilst Panuara Road is relocated and constructed.

Council also highlights that should Council resolve in the affirmative to close, sell and relocate Panuara Road, a Voluntary Planning Agreement will be required specifically for the relocation and reconstruction of Panuara Road.

### **Cadia Dewatering Facility**

Council seeks clarification regarding the proposed changes to the operating hours of the Cadia Dewatering Facility.

Page 50 of the Modification report states "*Changes in operating hours at the Cadia Dewatering Facility to also allow train arrivals and departure to occur during evening and night-time hours (however wagon loading operations would continue to occur daytime only).*"

Council seeks clarification in relation to Table 6 (on page 50) of which an exact is provided below. Should there be two different specific lines for the Cadia Dewatering facility?

- Train loading
- Train arrival and departure

**Table 3-6**  
Summary of Conditions and Proposed Changes

Conditions No.	Conditions	Proposed Changes																								
Schedule 3, Condition 6	<p>The Proponent shall comply with the operating hours in Table 6.</p> <p><i>Table 6: Operating Hours</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>Day</th> <th>Time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3"><b>Construction</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rodds Creek water holding dam raise; tailings storage facilities raises and embankment extensions; new pipelines; NaHS Solutioning Plant construction</td> <td>Any day</td> <td>Day</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">...</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><b>Operation</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">...</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blayney Dewatering Facility – train loading</td> <td>Any day</td> <td>7.00am to 7.00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cadia Dewatering Facility – train loading</td> <td>Any day</td> <td>Day</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	Day	Time	<b>Construction</b>			Rodds Creek water holding dam raise; tailings storage facilities raises and embankment extensions; new pipelines; NaHS Solutioning Plant construction	Any day	Day	...			<b>Operation</b>			...			Blayney Dewatering Facility – train loading	Any day	7.00am to 7.00pm	Cadia Dewatering Facility – train loading	Any day	Day	<p>Changes in construction hours to also allow TSF raises and embankment extensions to occur in the evening (i.e. 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm).</p> <p>Remove conditions related to the former Blayney Dewatering Facility.</p> <p>Changes in operating hours at the Cadia Dewatering Facility to also allow train arrivals and departure to occur during evening and night-time hours (however wagon loading operations would continue to occur daytime only).</p>
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Heading immediately before Schedule 3, Condition 35B	Mine Water Management Performance Measures	Include 'affected' in the heading. "Mine Affected Water Management Performance Measures"																								

Council considers “train loading” and “train arrival and departure” as two clearly separate activities which should be clearly articulated in the hours of operation.

Table 6 is currently ambiguous in that it reads train loading can occur “any day” and during “day” time. What is “day” time? It should specify an “a.m. and p.m.” time.

**Conclusion**

Council affirms its need to further engage with Newmont regarding the proposed Modification 15, prior to being in a position to provide further detailed comment. The initial meeting is scheduled for 19 December 2023.

Should you require further information regarding this matter please contact myself on 0409742432.

Yours sincerely



Mark Dicker  
**General Manager**