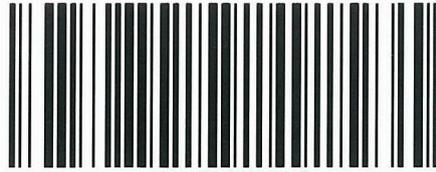


OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

FORBES SHIRE COUNCIL

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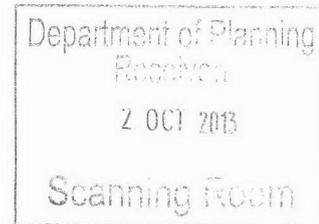


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Director Mining and Industry Projects
Development Assessment Systems and Approvals
NSW Government
Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 28001

RP/JCC
30 September 2013



Reference: Development Application 14/98 MOD 11

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of Forbes Shire Council I am pleased to provide this submission to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure regarding Barrick's proposal to extend the operational life of the Cowal Gold Mine.

Forbes Shire Council supports the proposal to extend the operational life of the Cowal gold mine and has reviewed the comprehensive Environmental Impact Study (EIS) that is currently on exhibition. Council has a copy of the study on public display in our Town Hall administration building for interested members of our community to review.

Barrick is conscious of the community and environmental responsibilities and Council is represented on their Community Environmental Monitoring and Consultative Committee by 2 Councillors. The EIS is comprehensive and Council believes it addresses all the requirements to ensure there is minimal environment impact and rehabilitation of the mine expansion.

There is a long list of the way Barrick supports it's communities and these are listed below.

Memorandum of Understanding with surrounding Councils

Barrick has entered into 2 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the Bland, Forbes and Lachlan Shire Councils.

The first establishes a legacy fund which will provide benefits to the residents of the three local government areas beyond the operational life of the mine.

The second MOU is a voluntary commitment by Barrick to contribute \$150,000 annually towards the identification and improvement of safety issues on the road network surrounding and leading to the Cowal Gold Mine.

/2...



Barrick Cowal Gold Mine Rates, royalties, and other taxation payments

Year	Local government (Bland, Forbes and Lachlan)	NSW Government	Total
2009	\$576,190	\$6,891,833	\$7,468,021
2010	\$824,580	\$11,751,962	\$12,576,543
2011	\$847,070	\$12,050,668	\$12,897,738
2012	\$875,020	\$12,829,350	\$13,704,374

Source: Barrick operational data

Local purchasing

Barrick's annual procurement expenditure in the combined Bland, Forbes, and Lachlan local government areas amounts to around \$45 million or approximately 18% of total expenditure. The Cowal Gold Mine has a Local Procurement Policy which prioritises local procurement from local Indigenous (Wiradjuri) groups then from companies located within the Bland, Forbes and Lachlan Shire Councils.

Local employment

Barrick records 68 per cent of its workforce reside in the Bland Shire, 14 per cent in Forbes and 6 per cent in Lachlan. This indicates the spatial distribution of employment and economic benefits across the three local government areas. In Forbes, Barrick employees represent just over 1 per cent of the total labour force in the local government area.

	Resident Barrick staff	% total Barrick staff	% total labour force	Total labour force
Bland Shire	253	67.9	9.1	2,792
Lachlan Shire	23	6.3	0.8	2,998
Forbes Shire	54	14.4	1.3	4,105
Other	42	11.4	-	-
Total	372	100	-	-

Source: Barrick operational data; ABS Quickstats 2011

Tertiary education

Barrick supports tertiary education for young people through the Endeavour Scholarships Program, through which funds are provided directly to local high schools which are then free to nominate and award students independently. Until 2013, the application and award process was managed directly by Barrick.

Endeavour Scholarships Program outcomes 2006-2012		
Area	Amount (\$)	% total
Bland Shire	240,500	41
Forbes Shire	150,000	26
Lachlan Shire	192,500	33
Total	583,000	100

Source: Barrick operational data

Education outcomes

Beyond investment in scholarships, Barrick contributes financial and other support directly to education services across the Bland, Forbes and Lachlan local government areas. Most notably, is through the award-winning Lake Cowal Foundation, through which Barrick supports the Lake Cowal Foundation Education Program. This program employs a full-time teacher to deliver the environmental education course for grades K-12. While the program is administered by West Wyalong High School, it is open to all schools and approximately 3,000 students attend from across the region annually. Barrick also regularly contributes to school events such as speech nights and awards events, through both financial contributions and direct participation.

Sustaining community groups and organisations

As part of its ongoing commitment to working together with local communities for mutual long-term success, Barrick engages in a number of community development initiatives which are designed to positively impact on social infrastructure, social capital and governance. The major annual community development program run by Barrick is the Cowal Partnering Program which receives applications for support from local community groups, including local government. Another program is the Barrick Buddies Program which encourages Barrick employees to volunteer their time at local community organisations then contributes financially to those organisations.

Cowal Partnering Program grants (total expended), 2012	
LGA	Amount (\$)
Bland	68,790
Forbes	14,980
Lachlan	12,530
All areas (Bland, Forbes, & Lachlan – cross boundary)	69,420
Total	165,720

Source: Barrick operational data

Council understands that during the consultation process the Department may receive critical or negative submissions and urge the Department to consider that the proposal by Barrick of having wider reaching community benefits over the lifetime of the mine and beyond.

Yours sincerely



Cr Roh Penny
MAYOR