



7 December 2016

Planning and Environment Department
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: **Elle Donnelley**

Dear Ms Donnelly,

Application to Modify Development Consent – Evolution Mining (Cowl) Pty Limited, Modification 13.

Lachlan Shire Council has undertaken a review of the proposed modification 13 submitted by Evolution Mining (Cowl) Pty Limited that proposes to extend the life of mine and undertake an increased excavation of the mine pit, raising of tailings dam and increased development of the waste stockpiles.

Lachlan Shire Council has undertaken direct consultation with the mine operators and received a presentation as to the proposed changes to the depth and enlargement of the mine pit, the future development of waste rock stockpiles, the increase in height of tailings dams and other changes to drainage and onsite infrastructure.

Based on the submitted Environmental Assessment 2016 by Resource Strategies and Councils discussions with mine operators, the Council has no direct objection to the proposed modification.

Council has made an assessment of the current social contributions and impacts that this mine generates for Lachlan Shire residents and would like to request the following areas be retained or amended to suit the proposed life of mine operation being considered;

1. That the current level of roads contribution provided to the Councils of Bland, Forbes and Lachlan Shires is retained and adjusted annually according to CPI for Sydney with the locality factor for remote areas. The Councils currently share \$150,000 / year and determine the expenditure based on impacts from traffic and other social factors. (Reason: to ensure that the councils are improving road conditions and maintenance levels on identified roads that support mine traffic);
2. That a community consultative committee is retained and that a representative from Lachlan Shire Council is retained on the current committee or a revised committee in accordance with any relevant guidelines established by NSW Planning (Reason: that a link

is maintained with the communities to ensure that localised issues or concerns can be raised and addressed);

3. That the applicant retain an employee transport system that supports the retention of employees across Lachlan Shire Council and especially the existing workforce around the township of Condobolin; and that the transport assists to reduce road accidents due to length of work hours undertaken by employees. (Reason: to ensure that employees working long shifts and travelling, do not have road accidents due to fatigue. A worker transport system is preferred over individual motor vehicle use);

4. That the mine operators commence to work towards the mine decommissioning and withdrawal of economic and community benefit impacts identified by URS Australia Pty Ltd – Report, Barrick Cowal Gold Mine Social Impact Assessment 2013 Section 6 - Closure Impacts and the commencement of identifying long term initiatives to support local communities through the closure process. (Reason: Although the modification is for an extension to mine life, a revision of the long term social impacts of a mine closure should require the review and the development of a social and community support process to be implemented years in advance of the time of closure. The communities may face a dramatic decline in local income, services and economic function during the closure phase of the mine).

Lachlan Shire Council is supportive of the extension of life of mine and in its assessment of environmental factors and social impacts cannot identify areas that would raise concern above those currently existing at this mine site.

Should you require any further information in relation to this advice please contact Mr. Glenn Wilcox, Director Environment and Planning on 02 6895 1900.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Hunt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Hunt
General Manager