

8 December 2016

SWT08/00090
SF2013/147454
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The Manager
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Elle Donnelley

**DA14/98 MOD 13 - PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF OPERATION OF COWAL GOLD MINE,
LAKE COWAL ROAD, WEST WYALONG.**

I refer to your correspondence regarding the subject Application which was referred to the Roads and Maritime Services for assessment and comment.

From the information provided it is understood that the application represents a request to modify the development consent for the Cowal Gold Mine for an increase in depth of the open pit mining and processing operations at the Cowal Gold Mine for an additional operational life of approximately 8 years. The application is supported by an Environmental Assessment Report prepared by Resource Strategies Pty Ltd.

The supporting documentation indicates that the modification provides for the continuation and extension of open pit mining operations at the Cowal Gold Mine for an additional period of approximately 8 years till December 2032 to produce an additional 1.7 Moz of gold. It is noted that the modification represents an increase in the depth of the mine and a review of the processing method but does not represent a significant alteration to the traffic generation.

From the information provided it is understood that essentially the proposal does not represent changes to the factors that would significantly impact on the current traffic generation associated with the mining operation such as extraction rate, transportation of resources or workforce numbers. Given the above, it is considered that the modification would not result in any material change to potential traffic generation as a result of the proposal other than to prolong the use of the transport network for a further 8 years.

Roads and Maritime emphasises the need to minimise the impacts of any development on the existing public road network and maintain the level of safety, efficiency and maintenance along the road network.

Roads and Maritime Services has assessed the modified application and supporting information provided and would raise no objection to the modification as proposed.

Previous Roads and Maritime Services in its response to a similar modification by Barrick in 2013 raised the need for fatigue management for workers particularly in travelling to and from the mine site to be considered given the nature of the mining operation, the location of the subject site and

the 12 hour shift work periods. It is noted from the submitted documentation that the proponent has adopted practices to encourage the use of the existing employee shuttle bus service and car pooling. Roads and Maritime promotes the need to address and review workers fatigue issues particularly relating to travel to and from the subject site. It would be appropriate for fatigue issues and mitigation measures to be regularly reviewed.

Any enquiries regarding this correspondence may be referred to the Manager, Land Use for Roads and Maritime Services (South West Region), Maurice Morgan, phone (02) 6923 6611.

Please forward a copy of the Notice of Determination for this Development Application to the Roads and Maritime Services at the same time as advising the applicant.

Yours faithfully



Per:
Mr Lindsay Tanner
Regional Manager
South West Region