



4 May 2018

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

Attention: Mandana Mazaheri

DA14/98 MOD14 – PROPOSED INCREASE IN PRODUCTION, COWAL GOLD MINE, BLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

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 the ore processing rate and associated operational changes both on and off the subject site. The application is supported by an Environmental Assessment Report and a Road Transport Assessment prepared by Evolution Mining.

The changes proposed by the modification appear to relate mainly to the production rate of the mine and the reorganisation of the processing operations within the subject site. The modification will also result in an increase in traffic generation due to increased demand for process consumables, workforce numbers (approximately 10 additional employees) and increased output of processed commodities.

The proposed modification involves no changes to the site access but does propose alternative vehicular travel routes on the public road network during periods where the existing preferred routes are not trafficable due to road closures, flood inundation, etc. The proposed alternative routes are part of the local road network maintained by local government. The use of these alternative routes should be consulted with the relevant local councils.

Whilst the proposed increased production rate will generate additional traffic it is the proposed campaigns for the haulage of gravel from the site, including that for use by surrounding councils that may generate the most significant change to traffic generation by the development on the surrounding road network. To address this issue the proponent proposes to prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) in consultation with the relevant road authorities to manage the movement of gravel from the CGO site.

The submitted documentation includes a list of proposed environmental management and monitoring measures to be implemented as part of the proposed modification in section 7 of the Environmental Assessment. Traffic mitigation measures are also outlined in section 4.9.3 and treatment measures in table 4-20 of the EIS. These mitigation and monitoring measures are to be implemented as part of any implementation of the proposed modification.

Roads and Maritime notes condition 7.1 of the modified consent and its requirement for the use of the preferred mine access routes as described in the submitted documentation. As part of the access route to the south of the mine site which passes through West Wyalong consideration should be given to heavy vehicles using the heavy vehicle bypass along Showground Road and Compton Street to the south of West Wyalong rather than using Main Street through West Wyalong.

Roads and Maritime Services in its response to a previous modifications to the Lake Cowal Gold Mine has 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 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 fatigues 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 as part of management practices for the operation of the mine.

Roads and Maritime Services 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.

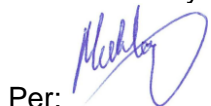
Roads and Maritime Services has assessed the modified application and supporting information provided and would raise no objection to the modification as proposed.

Please be advised that under the provisions of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act it is the responsibility of the Consent Authority to assess the environmental implications, and notify potentially affected persons, of any development including conditions.

Any enquiries regarding this correspondence may be referred to the Manager, Land Use for Roads and Maritime Services (South West Region), 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:
Jonathan Tasker
Acting Director
South West NSW