



Another 'golden' proposal for Cowal Mine

Evolution Mining Limited's proposed modification to increase production at the Cowal Gold mine has taken the next step with comments now sought by the NSW Department of Planning & Environment.

Public comment opened Wednesday in relation to the proposed modification of Evolution's Cowal Gold Operations, located 38 kilometres north-east of West Wyalong in the Bland Shire.

The Modification involves a proposed increase in ore processing rate from 7.5 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) to 9.8Mtpa through the installation of a secondary crushing circuit, as well as the duplication of the existing water supply pipeline, a new mining lease to the north of the existing mining lease, partial realignment of Lake Cowal Road and development of an Integrated Waste Landform surrounding the existing Tailings Storage Facilities.

If approved, the Modification will ensure continuity of employment for its current workforce of approximately 400 employees and contractors as well as creating an additional 10 full-time positions and approximately 100 construction positions.

It will continue to stimulate demand in the local and regional economy

and facilitate Evolution's ongoing significant economic contribution to the Bland, Forbes and Lachlan Shires, as well as the State and Commonwealth government.

Economic modelling completed as part of the Modification has estimated a net production benefit to NSW of \$27 million and to Australia of \$62 million.

The public exhibition process will be open for a period of four weeks, running until May 15, 2018.

Commenting on the approval process, Cowal General Manager Jason Greive said Evolution has completed extensive technical and environmental studies and has worked closely with local stakeholders to ensure the approval process and the Modification are well understood.

"Evolution is happy to answer any questions from members of the public about this project.

"If approved, Evolution is pleased it will be in a position to increase its contribution to the local economy through direct employment and additional procurement opportunities.

"Throughout the process our overarching priorities will continue to be maintaining our record of strong environmental stewardship and commitment to operating safely."