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Mr Kane Winwood Team Leader, Mining Projects NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Kane,

I am writing to discuss condition Numbers 41 and 42 of the Tomingley Gold Project – Project Approval

These are reproduced below and relate to the upgrading of the Tomingley West Road:

## "Road Upgrades

41. Prior to the commencement of mining operations, the Proponent shall upgrade Tomingley West Road between the intersection with Narromine-Tomingley Road and the intersection with the mine access road, to the satisfaction of Council.

## **Access Road Construction**

42. Prior to the commencement of mining operations, the Proponent shall construct the site access road intersection with Tomingley West Road in accordance with the requirements of Council."

Tomingley Gold Operations would like to commence mining operations without first undertaking this work. This is a position in which Narromine Shire Council support and with which there is a long history which has involved open communication and discussion between TGO and council.

This history is detailed below:

- Preliminary plans of the road reconstruction were submitted to Narromine Shire Council (NSC) for comment/approval on 15 May 2012.
- 2. Council provided comments and approved the preliminary plans on 8 June 2012.
- Detailed construction plans for the road reconstruction were submitted to Council for approval on 19 September 2012.
- 4. NSC issued its approval of the construction plans on 16 October 2012.
- 5. In February 2013 issues were raised by a local resident concerning the height of the road centreline.
- Alkane agreed to make changes and Tomingley West Road was redesigned to lower the centreline with amended construction plans being submitted to Council on 15 April 2013.
- 7. Council issued its approval of the amended construction plans on 3 May 2013.
- 8. Council then raised issues regarding access to two properties and requested revised details be provided for the access to the properties on the southern side of Tomingley West Road.
- Amended construction plans providing details of access to 17L and 21L were submitted to Council for approval on 30 May 2013.
- 10. Heavy rainfall was experienced in Tomingley in June 2013, the rain resulted in only three days productive earthworks for the month. As a result and considering the long range forecast of a wetter than average winter, the decision was made not to start construction on the road at that time. Council agreed with the decision being mindful of complaints from local users if the construction period was prolonged due to wet weather.
- 11. The Tomingley West Road is used heavily during the barley harvesting season which generally starts in October and is followed by general grain harvesting later in the year. Therefore upgrading of the road during this time is also seen as inappropriate.
- 12. The most appropriate time for upgrading the road is agreed to be the first quarter 2014 after harvesting. The commencement date will be set in consultation with the Narromine Shire council.



Given the sequence of events listed above which essentially aimed to provide a design that residents were happy with and fitting into the road usage schedule, Tomingley Gold Operations feels that it is justified in not widening the road prior to mining commencement.

Narromine Shire Council has been involved in every step of this decision making process and supports Tomingley Gold Operations decision. Please see attached letter from Kerry Murphy, Narromine Shire Council.

We seek that Planning acknowledge Tomingley Gold Operations request to work outside the Project Approval condition in this instance and that Planning support the position.

Best Regards

## Colleen Measday

## **Environment and Community Superintendent**

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