



Appendix B

Engagement





CGO Underground Mining Development

Pre-EIS engagement report

Client: Evolution Mining

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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Overview of the proposal	3
1.2	Increased workforce	4
2	COWAL GOLD OPERATION SITE	5
3	PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT	6
4	CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES	7
4.1	Approach	8
4.1.1	COVID-19	8
5	KEY FINDINGS	11
6	CONSULTATION FEEDBACK	14
6.1	Interactions	14
6.2	Online Community Information Sessions	14
6.3	Survey results	16
6.4	Council meetings	17
6.5	Neighbouring landowners	18
6.6	CEMCC	19
7	FUTURE CONSULTATION PLANS	20
FIGURES		
Figure 1	Site image	5
TABLES		
Table 1	– Consultation overview	8
Table 2	– Themes	11
APPENDICES		
A	Cowal Gold Operation website copy	
B	Community newsletters	
C	Social media posts	
D	Newspaper adverts	
E	Display boards	
F	Display centres	
G	Online survey results	
H	Hard copy survey	
I	Online Community Information Session presentation material	

1 Introduction

Evolution Mining is the owner and operator of the Cowal Gold Operation (CGO), which is approximately 38 kilometres north-east of West Wyalong and 60 kilometres south-west of Forbes in New South Wales. The site is approximately 350 kilometres west of Sydney and falls within the local government area of Bland Shire Council. The CGO is situated on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri People.

CGO has operated as an open cut mine since 2005. The mine operates under Ministerial development consent (DA14/98) which allows Evolution to extract and process ore at a processing rate of 9.8 million tonnes of ore per annum (Mtpa) until 2032. The mine site is located immediately adjacent to Lake Cowal and operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

1.1 Overview of the proposal

CGO is proposing an underground mining development, which would operate in addition to CGOs' existing open cut mine.

The proposed changes will include underground mining operations beneath a section of Lake Cowal, an area already included within the Mining Lease 1535.

The CGO underground mining development is being considered under the State Significant development process and, if approved, will operate under a new State Significant development (SSD) consent.

To support the underground mine development, Evolution Mining is also proposing modifications to its existing surface operations (approved under DA14/98).

Since the scoping consultation on the project and the receipt of the 2019 SEARs, Evolution has made changes to the design of the underground mine, and consultation has been undertaken to inform interested parties on these changes as well as the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) proposal.

The proposed changes would result in an increase to the mine life, an increase the amount of ore that is extracted, and an augmented to the existing

processing facilities. However, these will not change the overall surface footprint of the mine.

The underground mine will produce waste rock that will be accommodated on existing emplacements and there will also be a box cut entry to the underground mine.

The development will involve a minor increase to the height of the integrated waste landform. However, the overall footprint of the integrated waste landform would remain unchanged.

Because the proposed changes will occur underground and within the mine's existing footprint, most aspects of the mine's operations will stay the same, including:

- » extent and depth of the open pit
- » lake isolation system
- » maximum waste rock emplacement heights
- » cyanide leaching circuit
- » cyanide destruction methods
- » cyanide concentration levels
- » approved daily or annual extraction limits of the Bland Creek Paleochannel Borefield
- » approved processing rates
- » exploration activities
- » mining tenements
- » hours of operation
- » site access road
- » power and water supply sources
- » 24-hour operations.

1.2 Increased workforce

It is estimated that around 200 full time equivalent jobs will be created at the peak of construction for the underground mining development. Once in operation, it is estimated that a further 160 jobs will be created at the underground mine.

Evolution Mining notes that finding an appropriate accommodation solution for the proposed increased workforce is important for the viability of the project. An accommodation village in West Wyalong is being planned as part of this solution and a number of sites, sizes and designs are to be considered.

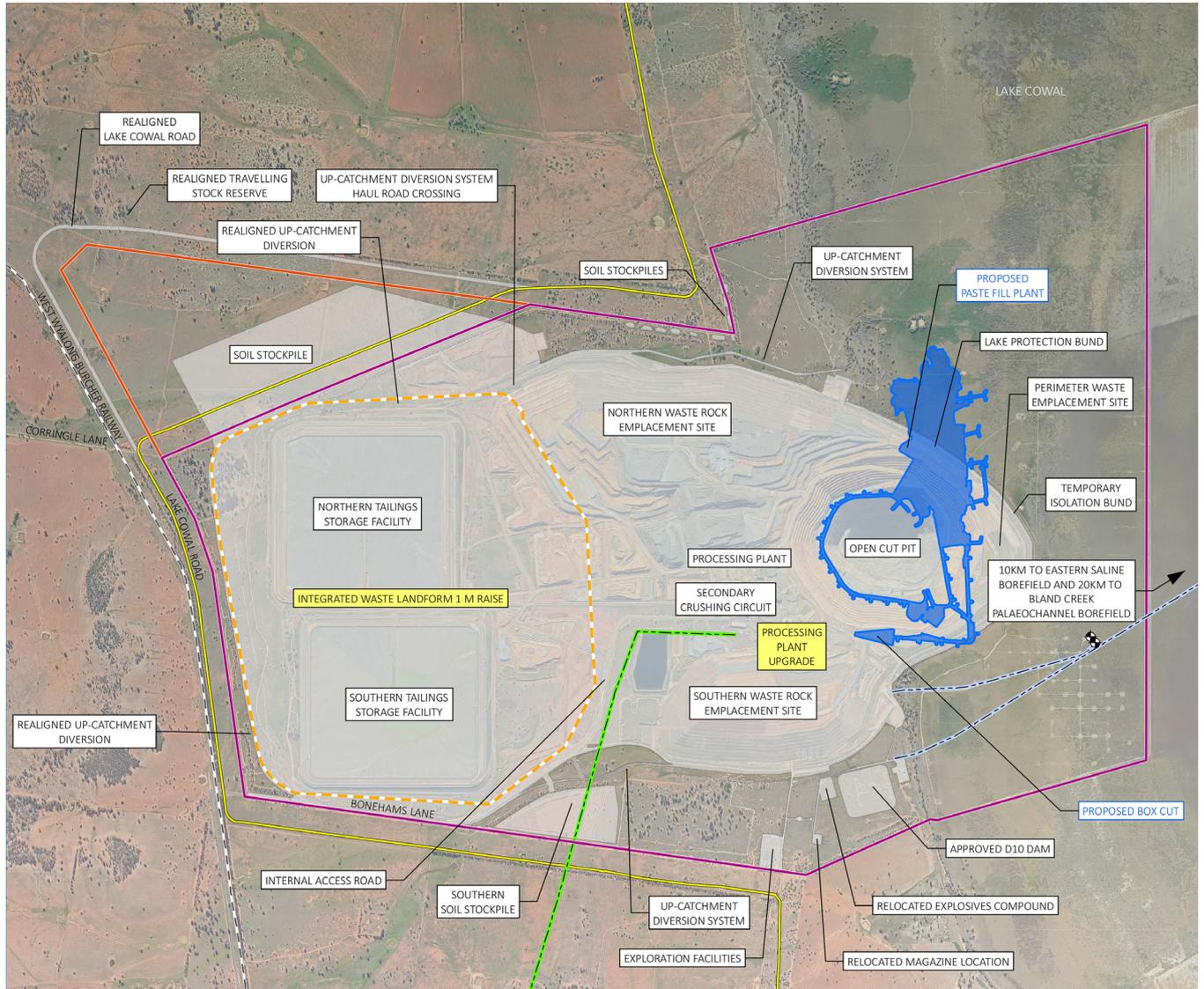
Broader operating models for the temporary workforce have also been considered, to minimise impacts to local housing, which includes Fly-in fly-out (FIFO) and Drive-in Drive-out (DIDO) workers, until a sustainable accommodation solution is delivered in the area.

Noting that any accommodation solution will be undertaken outside of the EIS, interested parties were informed of these plans more broadly and future consultation will be undertaken as plans for an accommodation village progress.



2 Cowal Gold Operation site

Figure 1 Site image



Cowal Gold Operations current site plan and proposed underground development

- KEY**
- Proposed underground development
 - Mining lease (ML1535)
 - Mining lease (ML1791)
 - DA14/98 approved surface disturbance
 - Indicative integrated waste landform perimeter
 - Electricity transmission line
 - Water supply pipeline
 - ◆ Saline groundwater supply bore
 - - Rail line
 - Main road
 - xxxx Underground development elements
 - xxxx Mod 16 surface elements
 - xxxx Approved surface elements

3 Purpose of this report

This report provides a summary of the communications and consultation activities conducted by Elton Consulting on behalf of to support the Underground Mining Development Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

It details consultation undertaken with key stakeholders the Cowal Gold Operations Community and Environmental Monitoring Consultative Committee (CEMCC), and members of the community across the Bland, Lachlan and Forbes Local government areas in August and September 2020.

The Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development (SSD 10367), Revised Environmental Assessment Requirements outlines:

- The Department wishes to emphasise the importance of effective and genuine community consultation in preparing the EIS for the project. This process must ensure that the community has a good understanding of the project and its potential impacts and is actively engaged on issues of concern.
- During the preparation of the EIS, you must consult with the relevant local, State and Commonwealth Government authorities, infrastructure and service providers, community groups and affected landowners.
- The EIS must describe the consultation that was carried out, identify the issues raised during this consultation, and explain how these issues have been addressed in the EIS.
- During the preparation of the EIS and subsequent assessment process, you must operate a Community Consultative Committee for the development generally in accordance with the Community Consultative Committee Guideline: State Significant Projects (DPE November 2016).

4 Consultation objectives

Evolution Mining's approach to engagement

Evolution Mining's approach to engagement goes to the core of its values: Accountability, Excellence, Respect and Safety.

Since 2005 CGO has operated its open cut mine and has continued to support the local community through a range of local community initiatives. Located within Bland Shire, the mine has also continued to support the local community through jobs creation, long-term employment opportunities and contributing to the local economy through local procurement and patronage at local businesses.

Scoping report

In 2019, targeted consultation was conducted to support the scoping phase of the Cowal Gold Operations Underground Development EIS proposal. This consultation included meetings with local councils, presentations to the CEMCC, and meetings and information sessions with local community members and neighbouring landowners.

EIS consultation

Following consultation to support the EIS Scoping Phase, and the subsequent issue of the SEARs by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), a range of consultation has been undertaken to support the EIS preparation phase of engagement.

Community and stakeholders consulted has included have included those who are:

- » known to be impacted by the proposed works
- » potentially impacted by the proposed works
- » known to have an interest in or history of interaction with the project
- » identified in the SEARS.

This has included:

- » interviews with neighbouring landholders
- » online workshops with local community members
- » meetings with local councils

- » meetings with key stakeholders, e.g. West Wyalong Local Aboriginal Land Council
- » presentation to the CEMCC.

Consulting with the local community, stakeholders and landholders during the EIS preparation phase has focused on:

- » outlining changes to the underground development proposal that have been made since those outlined during the EIS scoping phase
- » providing an overview of the EIS process and associated technical reports and studies
- » providing on overview of consultation opportunities as part of the EIS process.



The consultation program to support the EIS focussed on clear and factual information about project.

Consultation was undertaken to ensure that CGO had a strong understanding of the social, environmental and economic issues highlighted by the local community and so any concerns could be understood and considered ahead of EIS submission and exhibition.

A Social Impact Assessment has been developed concurrently with the community and stakeholder consultation, to streamline activities and ensure that known stakeholders who are directly impacted by the mining operations adjacent to the site, and stakeholders who represent specific areas of interest were interviewed and had an opportunity to inform the EIS.

4.1 Approach

A comprehensive Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) was developed to ensure the above consultation objectives could be achieved.

The plan outlined several techniques to ensure that all relevant stakeholders and community members were reached and had an opportunity to be informed and provide feedback on the EIS.

4.1.1 COVID-19

With current COVID-19 restrictions, the consultation approach was designed to limit face-to-face

interactions with the community and focus on online, telephone and direct mail activities.

However, activities were also designed to ensure there was a range of avenues for stakeholders and the community to be informed on the proposal and to provide feedback noting that some community members may not have the technical ability to access online forums.

The table below outlines in detail the activities that were undertaken to ensure that members of the community and stakeholders across the Bland, Lachlan and Forbes local government areas were informed of the proposal and had an opportunity to contact the team to ask questions or provide feedback.

Table 1 – Consultation overview

Tool/Technique	Description
<p data-bbox="284 947 376 976">Emails</p> 	<p data-bbox="555 947 1433 1048">Emails were sent to community and stakeholders from the CGO database. These emails outlined the consultation program, explained how people could find information about the proposal and ask questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="555 1068 1053 1097">» 25 emails to community stakeholders <li data-bbox="555 1120 970 1149">» 11 emails to local landholders.
<p data-bbox="276 1234 384 1263">Website</p> 	<p data-bbox="555 1234 1329 1301">A project page was created on the Cowal Gold Operation website https://evolutionmining.com.au/cgo-env-statement/</p> <p data-bbox="555 1321 1436 1487">The website was launched ahead of consultation and included a project description and information on the upcoming engagement. Visitors to the website seeking further information were encouraged to provide feedback via the online survey (see below) or to contact the team via a dedicated email or hotline.</p>
<p data-bbox="201 1576 464 1606">Newspaper adverts</p> 	<p data-bbox="555 1576 1401 1644">Newspaper adverts were placed in the Forbes Advocate, West Wyalong Advocate and Condobolin Argus on the following days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="555 1664 1342 1693">» Forbes Advocate ½ page full colour Friday 4 September 2020 <li data-bbox="555 1713 1420 1780">» West Wyalong Advocate ½ page full colour Friday 4 September and Friday 11 September 2020 <li data-bbox="555 1800 1426 1830">» Condobolin Argus ½ page full colour Wednesday 9 September 2020.

Tool/Technique	Description
<p>Community newsletters</p> 	<p>A double-sided A4 flyer community newsletter containing information about the proposal and how to register for the Online Community Information Sessions, as well as detail on how to contact the community engagement team via the project email address and telephone number.</p> <p>The newsletter was letter-box dropped to premises as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Bland Shire LGA (West Wyalong): 3,000 copies of the newsletter distributed on the Thursday 3 and Friday 4 September 2020. » Lachlan Shire LGA (Condobolin): 2,000 copies of the newsletter, distributed to PO boxes on Thursday 3 September & remaining newsletters on Monday 7 September 2020. » Forbes Shire LGA: 2,500 copies of the newsletter distributed Monday 7 September 2020. <p>This can be found in the appendices.</p>
<p>Displays</p> 	<p>On-site displays were situated in the Bland, Lachlan and Forbes Shire local libraries.</p> <p>The displays comprised A1 storyboards with highly visual, easy to understand information about the proposal and EIS process.</p> <p>These can be found in the appendices.</p>
<p>Project email address and telephone</p> 	<p>A dedicated project email address was promoted as a means for people to provide feedback and comments and ask questions. The mailbox was monitored by the CGO community engagement team.</p> <p>A dedicated community hotline was also promoted as a means for community and interested stakeholders to ask questions and give feedback on the proposal.</p>
<p>Survey</p> 	<p>A survey was developed for members of the community to provide their feedback in their own time. The survey was published online via the project website and hard copies were placed alongside the local library on-site displays.</p>
<p>Social Media</p> 	<p>Information about the proposal and EIS process were shared by local councils on their respective community Facebook pages.</p>

Tool/Technique	Description
<p data-bbox="183 264 478 295">Stakeholder meetings</p> 	<p data-bbox="555 264 1412 331">Stakeholder meetings were held with local councils and the CEMCC from May 2020.</p> <p data-bbox="555 349 1430 517">A number of dedicated stakeholder interviews were held with local community members, neighbouring landholders, stakeholders and council representatives to help support the development of the Social Impact Assessment, which was led by Elton Consulting concurrently with the EIS preparation phase consultation program.</p>
<p data-bbox="188 555 474 622">Online Community Information Sessions</p> 	<p data-bbox="555 555 1361 622">Three Online Community Information Sessions were held to provide information about the proposal.</p> <p data-bbox="555 640 1434 775">The Online Community Information Sessions were facilitated by an independent facilitator and included presentations from the CGO project team, with an outline of the proposal, EIS technical reports and mitigation strategies.</p> <p data-bbox="555 792 1404 860">Each item covered in the session concluded with a facilitated discussion between participants where key questions were answered.</p> <p data-bbox="555 878 791 909">Sessions were held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="555 927 1139 958">» Saturday 5 September 2020 9am – 10.30am <li data-bbox="555 976 1118 1008">» Tuesday 8 September 2020 6pm – 7.30pm <li data-bbox="555 1025 1174 1057">» Saturday 12 September 2020 10am – 11.30am. <p data-bbox="555 1075 1256 1106">A copy of the presentation can be found in the appendices.</p>

5 Key findings

Out of all the consultation activities held, the following themes were raised. More detail relating to individual activities are outlined in the following section of this document.

Table 2 – Themes

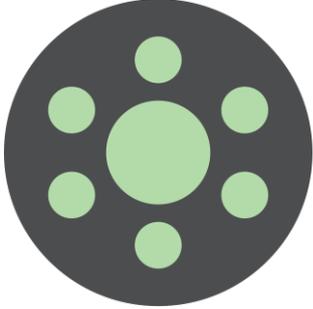
Theme	Summary
<p>Community benefits</p> 	<p>Generally, community members, landowners and stakeholders consulted with, ahead of the EIS lodgement were positive about the underground mining proposal, noting that it will contribute to ongoing jobs creation and economic development for the region.</p>
<p>Accommodation options</p> 	<p>Noting that the underground mining development will increase the local workforce, it was acknowledged that Evolution Mining should undertake measures to alleviate negative impacts to the local housing market.</p> <p>Broader discussions about plans to deliver an accommodation village in West Wyalong were positively received, with an interest in how the village could be operated, to support the local economy and suppliers.</p> <p>Particular interest was heard from local hotel and motel owners, who were keen to discuss options to utilise accommodation offerings that exist in the regions – noting that the current market has been negatively impacted from COVID-19.</p>
<p>Water management</p> 	<p>Across all consultation questions were asked in relation to how the underground mining development will manage water usage, what efforts they currently undertake to reuse water on site and if there are plans to deliver saline operations on site.</p> <p>Local irrigation representatives also had a keen interest to speak further with the project team, in line with the EIS.</p>

Theme	Summary
<p data-bbox="135 275 446 309">Toxicity impacts to soil</p> 	<p data-bbox="571 271 1426 365">Questions were asked in regard to the usage of cyanide on site, and what environmental efforts were undertaken to minimise impacts to the soil and land on site.</p> <p data-bbox="571 376 1398 470">The discussion noted that Cyanide has been used at the site since operations started and that no changes will be undertaken due to the underground mine.</p>
<p data-bbox="135 745 223 779">Safety</p> 	<p data-bbox="571 741 1433 898">As the delivery of the proposed underground mining development in the area is new, there was an interest to hear more about the safety measures that will be undertaken to operate the underground mine, and how the mine will be designed under the lake, to minimise impacts to Lake Cowal.</p>
<p data-bbox="135 1216 422 1283">Sight lines and visual impacts</p> 	<p data-bbox="571 1211 1426 1272">Some community members noted that the mine has developed over the years and that local landowners will have seen a change in sight lines.</p> <p data-bbox="571 1283 1422 1413">Local landowners adjacent to the site also commented that there had already been changes to site lines from their properties and they were interested to hear more detail about the new surface infrastructure and its height and scale.</p>

Theme	Summary
<p>Size and operation of the mine</p> 	<p>Questions were raised in regard to how long Evolution Mining proposed to operate the underground mining development and how its operations will coincide with the existing open cut mine.</p> <p>Questions were also asked if Evolution will be likely to extend the size of the underground mine in the future.</p>
<p>Consultation with Aboriginal community members</p> 	<p>Ongoing consultation with local Aboriginal community members was encouraged, particularly regarding the continuation of existing benefits and clarification of future benefits.</p>
<p>Traffic impacts</p> 	<p>Broadly speaking traffic impacts were not a major concern, however local landowners near to the site and council commented that there could be opportunities to help improve the local road infrastructure which may need to be maintained over time.</p>

6 Consultation feedback

6.1 Interactions

 <p>» 19 responses to the survey</p>	 <p>» 7 people participated in Online Community Information Sessions</p> <p>» 3 meetings with local councils</p> <p>» 1 meeting with the CEMCC</p> <p>» 6 meetings with neighbouring landowners</p>	 <p>» 134 visits to the webpage (114 unique)</p> <p>» 1 telephone enquiry</p> <p>» 0 email enquiries</p>
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6.2 Online Community Information Sessions

Key themes emerged across the various Online Community Information Sessions. The key themes have been identified as:

- » **Community benefits** – an interest in the continued benefits of the mine to the region, particularly in relation to future employment opportunities and continuing support to local business by using services in the areas, such as hospitality and catering.
- » **Accommodation options** – even though workforce accommodation plans will be delivered outside of the EIS, community members and local hotel members were interested to hear about proposed plans, where an accommodation village could be located, and how local accommodation businesses can be

utilised in the area especially since COVID-19, which as effected usage rates at local accommodation providers.

- » **Water usage** – some key stakeholder groups and local residents were interested to hear about potential impacts to surface and groundwater from the underground mining development proposal and what efforts Evolution Mining is undertaking to minimise impacts to landholders in the area. Representatives from local irrigation groups requested an additional meeting with the CGO team to discuss water usage in more detail.
- » **Toxicity impacts to soil** – specific questions were asked in relation to the deslimed waste and cyanide usage on site and what efforts CGO undertake on site to minimise impacts to soil.
- » **Safety** – there was a broad interest in the safety and operation of an underground mining development including what measures would be used to ensure safe practices were undertaken

on site, and how the underground mine is designed to minimise safety risks - noting that this is a new mining method for the Cowal Gold Operation in Bland Shire.

- » **Sight lines and visual impacts** – comments and questions were raised in relation to the proposed new surface infrastructure and how visible this will be to neighbouring landowners and community members travelling in the area.
- » **Size and operation of the mine** – questions were asked in relation to plans for the future operation of the underground mine, and if there is a chance it will grow and expand further underground in the future.
- » **Consultation with Aboriginal community members** – Ongoing consultation with local Aboriginal community members was encouraged, particularly regarding the continuation of existing benefits and clarification of future benefits.

Online Community Information Session - presentation



6.3 Survey results

The survey was available for community members online, via the CGO webpage as well as hard copies at local libraries in West Wyalong, Forbes and Condobolin.

19 responses were received through the survey from community members residing within the Bland, Lachlan and Forbes Shire regions.

A report of the detailed responses is included in the appendices.

Response summary

When asked if they were aware of CGO's proposed Underground Mining and Accommodation Village: 63% responded yes and 37% responded no.

When asked what the community's general perception of the proposal was: 36% answered very positive and 52% answered positive.

Comments were also made in relation to the community receiving more information.

When asked which elements of the proposal were of most interest: local employment, public infrastructure, services and facilities were of most interest. Water security, community investment, population change, health and wellbeing or public safety and environmental changes were also ranked of higher interest.

When asked what areas of interest they would like to hear more about going forward: responses included impacts to Aboriginal heritage, keeping the community informed as plans develop, future plans for the area and employment to the region, including the makeup of FIFO or DIDO workers.

When asked what they value about the local area: a large proportion of responses noted the safe environment and sense of community.

6.4 Council meetings

Forbes Shire Council

Feedback from Forbes Shire Council was largely positive, with generalised questions about the ongoing operations of the mine, water usage and recruitment to the region.

Discussions with Council included the following:

- » **Operations:** Council asked questions to clarify how the mine will operate and if the open cut mine will remain operational as the underground mining development is established. Questions were also asked in regard to the life cycle of the mine and how many years it's anticipated that the open cut and underground mine will operate.
- » **Water usage:** Council asked about the management of water and if Evolution Mining has plans to progress a new pipeline to the site and if the mine is proposing further exploration for and use of saline water.
- » **Community benefits:** Generally, Council commented that the progression of the underground mining development is exciting for the region and with the future development they would like to keep informed as to how Evolution Mining will continue to support the community through partnership initiatives.
- » **Workforce and recruitment:** In regard to the proposed increased workforce, Council had questions about how the workforce will operate, if they will be FIFO or DIDO and if the Forbes region could be considered to help meet accommodation demand in the future.

Bland Shire Council

Feedback from Bland Shire Council was largely positive, with generalised questions about the design of the underground mine, overall safety, and size of stopes and how these will be managed once the mining operation is completed. Broader questions were also raised about when the underground mining development would commence.

Discussions with Council included the following:

- » **Accommodation:** proposed accommodation plans for the increased workforce and proposed plans for an accommodation village and how long it could be operational



Community information displays – at local libraries

- » **Emergency service workers:** the challenge faced by local communities in attracting emergency service workers to the area due to a lack of suitable accommodation, which could be addressed in part when an accommodation village were to be established in West Wyalong.
- » **Community benefits:** hopes that the proposed underground development would lead to additional benefits to the local economy, particularly if CGO considers opportunities to support local supply chains and businesses.

Lachlan Shire Council

Feedback from Lachlan Shire Council was largely positive with generalised questions about the management of water on site and what efforts the mine takes to reuse captured water.

Discussions with Council included the following:

- » **Workforce and recruitment:** Questions were also asked in relation to how Evolution Mining can train the existing workforce up to work at the underground mining development, and how long an accommodation village could be needed to support the increased workforce during construction.
- » **Community benefits:** It was noted by Council that the proposal is an exciting development for the area, particularly as plans for the operation of the underground mining development will run for around the next 15 years.
- » **Accommodation:** More broadly, Council was interested in future operating models for workers on site and how the workforce might be able to reside in areas outside of West Wyalong, noting that safety is an important consideration for the workforce and travel distances.

6.5 Neighbouring landowners

Detailed interviews were undertaken with six neighbouring landowners as part of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA). These interviews were undertaken concurrently with the consultation program, and therefore the findings from the SIA interviews have been used to inform this report.

Discussions with neighbouring landowners included the following:

- » **Noise, dust, vibration and visual changes:** Observations and comments were made in relation to impacts to neighbouring landowners near to the mine and that the noise and visual impact of the mine has changed the quiet countryside for those that live nearby, since operations commenced.
- » **Community benefits:** It was noted that the local council areas and their economies have been positively supported by the mine due to economic stimulus to local business, work for local trades and more work opportunities. To most the negative impacts of the project are either negligible, and well worth the positives.
- » **Workforce and recruitment:** Comments were made in relation to local business operators and agricultural operators when trying to attract and retain local employees noting that they cannot compete with mine wages. Suggestions were also made in relation to upskilling younger members of the community, to attract them to continue to reside in the area and that Evolution Mining could look to help upskill locals.

- » **Accommodation:** Housing stress was noted as a concern, and comments that with the growth of the mine coincides with other construction projects in the region and that this highlights a need for an accommodation village.
- » **Traffic impacts:** Issues were raised in relation to existing impacts on local roads, and one landowner noted that they were not consulted before the construction of the adjoining road. However, they acknowledged that interactions with the Evolution Mining team have improved over time with win-win arrangements with nearby landowners. Comments were also made in relation to the workforce buses onto the site, and that these helped minimise impacts to the surrounding roads. General suggestions were also made, for Evolution Mining to consider improving local roads as the gravel has deteriorated over time.



6.6 CEMCC

Engagement with the Community Environmental Management Consultative Committee (CEMCC) focused on potential benefits and impacts of the proposed underground mine. The meeting with the CEMCC followed on from a detailed workshop held in 2019 to support the scoping phase of the underground mining proposal.

The members of the CEMCC remained largely positive about the proposal and encouraged that the proposal was progressing.

Discussions with the CEMCC included the following:

- » **Water usage:** It was noted that water security and minimising impacts to surrounding residents will always be a broader concern for the area. Questions were asked about usage of water on the CGO site and what efforts are undertaken to ensure surrounding bore fields are not impacted by the mine.
- » **Noise, dust, vibration and visual changes:** No concerns were raised by the CEMCC in regard to noise, dust, vibration and visual changes, noting that the majority of operations will be undertaken underground.
- » **Traffic impacts:** It was noted that that the proposal will result in a temporary increase in traffic with the proposal; however, no major concerns were raised.
- » **Workforce and recruitment:** In relation to the increased workforce questions were asked in relation to Evolution Mining's plan to upskill the local workforce or relocate future employees to the region and the socio-economic benefits would be delivered in the local area.
- » **Community benefits:** It was commented that the CEMCC members felt positively about the proposal and believed that an increase in population and families to the area will support local businesses, bring more students into local schools and help build the future community.



7 Future consultation plans

As the EIS progresses through the approval process, CGO will continue to consult with the community through workshops, notifications and community newsletters, and meetings with local community groups representing specific areas of interest (e.g. accommodation, water usage), and Aboriginal community representatives.

Consultation will be undertaken during the exhibition phase of the EIS ensure community and stakeholders are aware of the that the EIS is on exhibition and have an opportunity to provide an informed submission to DPIE.

Appendices

- A Cowal Gold Operation website copy
- B Community newsletters
- C Social media posts
- D Newspaper adverts
- E Display boards
- F Display centres
- G Online survey results
- H Hard copy survey
- I Online Community Information Session presentation material

A Cowal Gold Operation website copy

Cowal Environment Impact Statement

Cowal Environmental Impact Statement

What is being proposed?

The Cowal Gold Operations (CGO) is located around 38km north-east of West Wyalong and sits within the Bland Shire Council local government area.

Evolution Mining is proposing a new underground mining development, in addition to the existing open cut mine.

Subject to Statutory and Evolution Mining board approvals, construction for the underground mining development could commence in 2021, with operations starting in 2023. The project proposes an extension to the life of mine enabling operations for the next 15+ years. Evolution Mining is a proud member of the local community and welcomes the opportunity to extend this important relationship.

Local employment opportunities

It is estimated that around 200 full time equivalent jobs will be created at the peak of construction.

Once in operation, it is estimated that a further 160 jobs will be created at the underground mine.

Accommodation needs

Finding appropriate accommodation solution for the proposed increased workforce is important for the viability of the project.

An accommodation village in West Wyalong is part of the solution and a number of sites, sizes and designs are to be considered.

We will consult with the community to find the best solutions for Evolution Mining and for the community.

We have a community engagement team available on 02 6975 3454 to respond to queries.

Planning process

To progress plans for the underground development, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is now being developed and has been refined since Evolution Mining shared information with the local community in 2019.

To support the underground mining development additions to the surface infrastructure is required. Evolution Mining is seeking approval under DA14/98, named Modification 16 – surface infrastructure proposal to support these modifications.

CGO anticipates the EIS and Modification 16 will be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) early in Q4 2020.

Further information is available on our Community Newsletter ([click here to view or download](#)) or fill out our short survey to provide your feedback by [clicking here](#).

Community and stakeholder engagement

Evolution Mining is committed to working with the community and local stakeholders to contribute to improving our plans.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions a number of Online Community Information Sessions will be held. Information is also be available at the Bland Shire, Forbes and Condobolin local libraries.

You're invited to our Online Community Information Sessions.

Details

About the underground mining development:

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a number of Online Community Information Sessions are planned to provide you with more detail about the underground mining development.

Register for one of the sessions at a time that suits you, or contact our community engagement team.

Session 1

Date and time: Saturday 5 September, 9am – 10.30am

Where: Online via Zoom

Register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMvcOyrrTwrHdYqmTmwIT69icJ-Y1WnOaEz>

Session 2

Date and time: Tuesday 8 September 6pm – 7.30pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAqdOysrDsvGtC0g4OzQ1r4tlpwk3rWFOQu>

Session 3

Date and time: Saturday 12 September 10am – 11.30am

Register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJludO6hrTkjHNyXdffs74Ybzyc2HGTQQyPS>

Further information

Information on the proposed underground mining development and the temporary workers village

is also available at the Bland Shire Library, Forbes Library and Condobolin Library during their operating hours.

Contact our team

Members of our project team are here to answer your questions and take your feedback.

You can also fill out a short survey to provide your feedback, [please click here](#).

Email: cgo.community@evolutionmining.com

Call: 02 6975 3454

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B Community newsletters

Evolution Mining Cowal Gold Operation



UNDERGROUND PROJECT UPDATE | AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2020

Plans are progressing for the Cowal Gold Operation (CGO) new underground mining development, located 38km north-east of West Wyalong within the Bland Shire Council local government area (LGA).

Since CGO spoke to council and the community last year, the proposal has been refined and CGO is preparing the technical reports for the underground mining development.

As plans progress, CGO is inviting the community to a number of Online Community Information Sessions, where you can find out more, ask questions and provide your feedback. Registration details are below.

About the project

Subject to approvals, construction for the underground mining development will commence in 2021, with operations starting in 2023. The plans also propose to extend the life of the mine, for around the next 15+ years.

Further information on the project is over page.

Find out more

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a number of Online Community Information Sessions are planned to provide you with more detail about the underground mining development.

Register for one of the sessions at a time that suits you, or contact our community engagement team.

About the underground mining development:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ■ Saturday
5 September,
9am - 10.30am | ■ Tuesday
8 September,
6pm - 7.30pm | ■ Saturday
12 September,
10am - 11.30am |
|---|---|---|

Local employment opportunities

Existing jobs for the open cut mine will be retained and it is estimated that around 200 full time equivalent jobs could be created at the peak of construction.

Once in operation, it is estimated that a further 160 jobs will be created, taking the operational workforce to approximately 660 full time jobs.

Where possible, CGO will upskill our existing workforce and recruit from or to the region, allowing us to continue to support the region for around the next 15+ years.

Accommodation needs

From conversations held with local councils and the community in 2019, it is clear that finding appropriate accommodation solutions for the proposed increased workforce is important.

We intend to have an accommodation village in West Wyalong and a number of sites, sizes and designs are to be considered. This is our preferred solution; however we are still in the early assessment phase.

We will consult with the community as we progress plans to deliver suitable and sustainable accommodation options.

Contact our community engagement team to ask questions or provide your feedback call: 02 6975 3454

To register

To register for an online Community Information Session or ask questions:

Website:
evolutionmining.com.au/cowal/

Call: 02 6975 3454

Further information

Information is also available at the Bland Shire Library, Forbes Library and Condobolin Library during their operating hours.

Or visit:
evolutionmining.com.au/cowal/

Planning process

To progress plans for the underground development, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is now being developed and has been refined since CGO shared information with the local community in 2019.

To support the underground mining development, CGO is also proposing to make modifications to its existing surface operations approved under DA14/98, named Modification 16 – surface infrastructure proposal.

CGO anticipates the EIS and Modification 16 will be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) early in Q4 2020.

About the underground mining development

CGO is proposing an underground mining development, which would operate in addition to CGO's existing open cut mine.

Since the preliminary planning process in 2019, a number of key changes to the proposed operation of the underground mine and surface infrastructure have been identified.

Proposed changes to the underground mining development proposal include:

- **Increase in the size and depth of the proposed underground mine:** The size and depth of the proposed underground mine has increased, to allow CGO to extract higher-grade ore. The underground mine will operate from a stand off zone at a distance greater than 120m from under the lake.
- **Increase the rate of production:** The proposed size and depth of the mine presents us with an opportunity, which is estimated to increase the processing rate of annual ore production between 1.5 Million Tonnes Per Annum (Mtpa) to 2.0 Mtpa.

- **Extend the mine life:** CGO is able to further extend the proposed life of the mine, for around the next 15+ years. This provides a great opportunity to further provide economic benefits for the community.
- **A paste fill plant:** CGO has identified a suitable location for the paste fill plant, which will produce material to allow the underground voids to be backfilled. The plant will be located on the existing footprint of the mine.
- **A new box cut:** A new box cut will also be constructed, to provide access for workers and vehicles into the underground mine and to transport ore to the surface. This box cut will be located on the existing footprint of the mine.

About – Modification 16 – surface infrastructure proposal

To support the underground mining development, CGO is also proposing to make modifications to its existing surface operations approved under DA14/98. These include:

- **Augmentation of the Integrated Waste Landform:** The additional ore that will be mined will require a minor (1 metre) augmentation of the approved integrated waste landform (IWL) at the site. This change will be accommodated within the existing footprint of the IWL and is unlikely to change the visual impact of the mine.
- **Additional infrastructure:** To support the operations of the mine, additional infrastructure is proposed for the paste fill plant as well as an ore hopper and conveyor to the processing plant. Some general ancillary upgrades are also included, such as a control room and admin buildings.

We encourage the community to find out more, ask questions and provide your feedback.

Members of our project team are here to answer your questions and take your feedback.

Email: cgo.community@evolutionmining.com

Call: 02 6975 3454

Website: evolutionmining.com.au/cowal/

C Social media posts



Lachlan Shire - The Heart of NSW

2 September · 🌐



Cowal Gold Operations is proposing a new underground mining development, in addition to the existing open cut mine.

The public is invited to attend one of their Online Community Information Sessions, starting on Saturday 5 September, 9am-10.30am.

You can find out more, ask questions and provide your feedback at <https://evolutionmining.com.au/cowal/>

There is also an online survey at <https://www.research.net/r/6G65P27>



RESEARCH.NET

Community survey for the CGO Underground Project

Take this survey powered by [surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com). Create your own survey...

1 comment



Bland Shire Council

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Bland Shire Council

4 September · 🌐

As part of its community consultation regarding a proposed underground mining development at Cowal, Evolution Mining is conducting an online community survey at <https://www.research.net/r/6G65P27>

The first of three planned online community consultation sessions regarding the project will take place tomorrow.

For more information about the project, session times and to register visit <https://evolutionmining.com.au/cgo-env-statement/>



RESEARCH.NET

Community survey for the CGO Underground Project

Take this survey powered by [surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com). Create your own survey...

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www.evolutionmining.com.au

Online **Information** Session

You are invited to attend an online information session to hear about the plans for the **Cowal Gold Operation (CGO)**. These information sessions are planned to provide you with more detail about the underground mining development. They are also an opportunity to give your thoughts and feedback which will help inform our plans.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the session will be held online, across the following days:

- **Saturday 5 September**, 9am – 10:30am
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To register for an online session at a time that suits you, please visit evolutionmining.com.au/cowal/ or call 02 6975 3454.



Barmedman News

with correspondent Shirley Clay



THE West Wyalong Cub Scouts welcomed a new member into their group recently with Barmedman youngster, Phoenix Fuller pictured at his investiture. (Photo supplied)

Around Town

A very happy Fathers Day to all the dads out there for this coming Sunday.

A wonderful start to Spring with the warm days bringing out the first sighting of a brown snake in one local resident's garden. With crops looking green, gold and healthy and the dams full it is enough to bring a smile to everyone's face.

Well done to local girls Kirsty Smart and Dianna Carne for joining with two other staff members from West Wyalong Hospital on Family Feud recently. Although they didn't bring home the big prize the girls still gave considerable donations to Country Hope and West Wyalong Can Assist.

A former Barmedman resident was pleased to hear West Wyalong's John Kelly interviewed on the radio recently. It was a wonderful segment with many old Maher Cup players mentioned. It will be 50 years next year since the last Maher Cup game was played and it is hoped there may be some sort of reunion organised to acknowledge the milestone. Barmedman is on record for having played 100 Maher Cup matches. Organisers of the 2006 reunion will always remember Ross Maguire arriving at the Bowling Club with the Maher Cup held high with it becoming the highlight of the evening, evoking many memories for all attending.

Personals

Sympathy is extended to the family of the late Bob Loiterton who passed away at Coolamon on Friday, August 21 at the age of 87 years. Bob, formerly of Barmedman, along with his family, farmed the properties 'The Levels' and 'Wargin Plains' some years ago.

Wyalong Public School will welcome two University practicum students over the next few weeks - Miss Rae Mitchell and Mrs Tessa Turner, who will be in the K/1 and 4/5/6 classroom respectively.

The "Meerkat Big 4" milkshake at Wyalong Public School this week went to Ryder Pettit for always following the "Big 4".

Merit award recipients at Wyalong Public School this week were Scarlett Orr for reading and comprehending chapter books, Calab West for writing awesome facts about rats, Tyson Richards for improved effort in writing, Claire Wilson for continued effort in class, Jay Thacker for consistently good effort and Hayley Wilton for positive attitude in all areas of school.

Students of the Week were Jaydan Beiser, Summer Pettit and Hunter Rennie.

Building works is progressing very well at St Mary's School with an expectation students will begin moving into the new rooms, both upstairs and downstairs, on September 21. The next stage of the upgrade is the new offices, sick bay and teachers staff room which will be in the current Kinder and Yr 1/2 rooms, expected to begin in the holidays.

Whatever You Do, Do Well awards at St Mary's School last week went to Andrew Cumming, Archie Maslin, Harry Morton, Stella Murrells, Caitlin Parker, Gigi Patton, Larna Pilon, Hamwene Sichimwi and Molly Stokes.

Recipients of Merit Awards at the West Wyalong Public School primary assembly last week were Maddison Davies, Quincy Ng, Isabella Pursehouse, Emily Jordan-Downes, Jessie Webster, Isaac Charpentier (Literacy), Seth Grimshaw, Cody Jamieson, Bridie Johnston (Literacy), Rhys Bischoff, Chloe Brohan, Sadie Wilmot, Cooper Brawn, Mae Eyles, Tommy Reid, Brodie Ferguson, Shalia Fox, Skye Buys, Hayden Collins, Emily Seaman and Bella Pursehouse (Literacy).

Primary students to receive Silver Bar awards were Jake Brooks, Brydie Davies, Tayah Maitland, Cody Marinkovic, Billy Matthews, Sayla Tukuafu, Jessie Webster and Charlotte Wyse while Blue awards were presented to Ryan Ackland, Illyannah Cattle, Alexander Collins, Asher Collins and Quincy Ng.

Maths awards presented at the Primary assembly went to Iley Anderson, Tyler Brohan, Billy Butcher, Savannah Carter, Alexander Collins, Will Davies, Nixon Heaslip, Koby Johnston, Charles Morris and Banjo Rees with Book awards going to Iley Anderson, Billy Beckett, AJ Collins, Shalia Fox, Noah Larden, Jayda Rees, Emily Seaman, Hannah Waddell and Harley Wilson.

Students to receive Smiley Badges were Skye Buys, Kayden Cattle, Ari Connors, Jhye Fuller, Emma Gillespie, Charlie Heaslip, Bridie Johnston, Seth Marinkovic, Hannah Milsom, Sarenah Murray, Katie Reid, Cruze Sealy, Abbey Steele and Scarlett Webster.

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- **Saturday 12 September, 10am – 11:30am**

To register for an online session at a time that suits you, please visit evolutionmining.com.au/cowal/ or call 02 6975 3454.

Mayor welcomes opportunity to celebrate local heroes

Bland Shire Mayor, Brian Monaghan says it is time to celebrate.

While some of our more traditional celebration methods might remain restricted, Mayor Monaghan is calling on the community to help make the 2021 Australia Day Awards one of the greatest celebrations of Bland Shire community spirit ever held.

"The Australia Day awards provide the community with an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding commitment and achievements of our peers," Mayor Monaghan said.

"The awards are an opportunity to collectively honour these special groups and individuals and what they mean to us and to our community as a whole."

Nominations for the 2021 Bland Shire Australia Day awards are available through Council's website at www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au, at Council's offices 6 Shire Street or by phoning Council on 6972 2266.

While in the midst of a tumultuous 2020, the Mayor is counting on a record number of nominations to showcase all the special people and individuals who continue to make the Bland Shire shine.

"After several years of drought, 2020 has thrown up a whole new set of unique challenges which have again highlighted the spirit and resilience of this incredible community," Mayor Monaghan said.

"By taking so many things away, this year has highlighted the integral role local community groups and sporting organisations play in community life and the special volunteers who keep them going.

"It would be fitting to see each of these individuals and groups recognised with an Australia Day award nomination so we can come together on and around January 26 to say thank

Extended days something to 'smile' about

The West Wyalong Dental surgery has come under new management and in the process, now features more days with some new faces on board.

Formally owned by Dr Tan Chau, who continues to visit monthly, the surgery's new hours have been extended to cover Mondays to Thursdays with two new dentists on site.

Dr Jason Mallon, (below) who originally hails from Ireland where he graduated from the



University of Bristol in 2016 before working in a dental surgery there for three years, attends the surgery three days a week.

He has an interest in all aspects of general dentistry but especially in Endodontics (root canal treatments) and restorative (crowns, bridges, dentures).

With a distinct Irish brogue and a calm reassuring manner with patients, Dr Mallon spends the rest of his week working in Forbes.

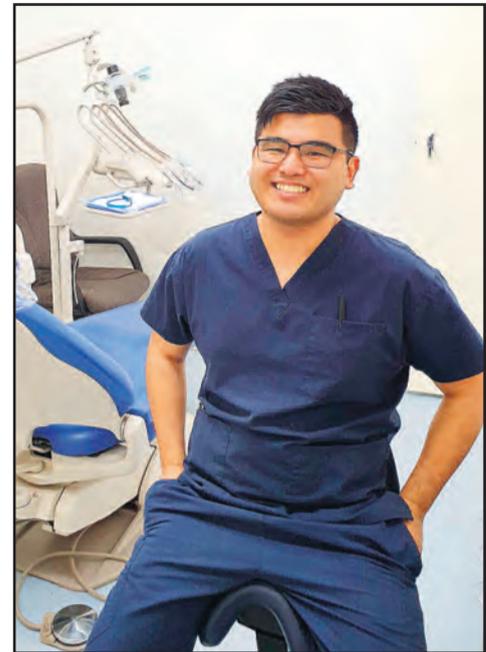
Socially Dr Mallon enjoys golf, soccer and tennis.

Dr Weivan Huang, (pictured right) meanwhile, travels from Forbes one day a week and also has a passion for all things dentistry, including orthodontics and preventative measures.

Dr Huang originally hails from Sydney however completed his five year university degree at Griffith University in Queensland.

He has been coming to West Wyalong since January this year with this country appointment being his 'first gig' since graduating last year.

Together the two dentists, along with former owner Dr Chau, offer every aspect in the field, welcoming locals to the surgery to maintain good oral health.



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Due to COVID-19 restrictions the session will be held online on

Saturday, September 12 from 10am - 11.30am

To register for the online session, please visit

evolutionmining.com.au/cowal/ or call 02 6975 3454

Condobolin Argus to grow with funding

By Melissa Blewitt

The Condobolin Argus team is set to grow after a Federal funding boost.

The independent community owned newspaper has welcomed the news it will be able to employ a new fulltime staff member, after successfully receiving a \$60,980 grant in the 2020 round of the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund.

Managing Director Anne Coffey said the Argus was pleased to be a recipient of funding under the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund.

"The grant has been a godsend after two years of extreme drought and now the effects of COVID-19 which has seen local advertising and events dry up," she explained.

"As a small, community-owned newspaper we rely on local support and advertising to keep our

paper running so we can provide locals with information, showcase their achievements, chronicle the history of the area and keep people informed.

"With these funds, we will employ a fulltime Regional News and Digital Media Officer.

"We will also be able to invest in new computers and printing equipment, and add extra colour pages to our newspaper, along with extra pages for regional news.

"Those of us who work at The Argus are locals who are dedicated to serving our community, and we are immensely grateful for this support."

The Innovation Fund is administered by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). The grants will help successful recipients continue to generate public interest journalism through investment digital initiatives, technical upgrades and staff

training, as well as supporting salaries.

Over 300 applications were assessed by the ACMA, working closely with an independent advisory committee, through a competitive grants process. The ACMA will work with successful applicants to develop and enter into grant agreements as soon as practicable.

Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton said the news was a great win for the community-owned newspaper.

"I'm thrilled that the Federal Coalition Government is providing this critical support to help keep journalists in jobs and ensure quality reporting continues to be available in the Condobolin district," he stated.

"It's been a challenging time for news outlets right around my electorate, with the drought and now COVID-19 putting a strain on the local economy, so I know these funds will be a real lifeline for the



• Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton has announced the Condobolin Argus has received a \$60,980 grant in the 2020 round of the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund, which will be used to employ a new fulltime staff member. Image Contributed.

Condobolin Argus team.

"It is so important our country communities remain informed and connected.

"But it's equally important that we do what we can to support local jobs, and that's

exactly what this grant will do.

"Congratulations to Managing Director Anne Coffey and the rest of the team on your success – what a great achievement for Condobolin."

The Innovation Fund began in 2018 and is part of a Government package to boost sustainability and ongoing production of news in the modern media environment.

In addition to the \$5

million Innovation Fund grants, the Government is providing \$50 million to 107 regional broadcasters and publishers through the Public Interest News Gathering (PING) program.

Evolution mining online information session about the future for the Cowal Gold operation

You are invited to attend an online information session to hear about the plans for the Cowal Gold Operation (CGO).

The information session is planned to provide you with more detail about the underground mining development. It is also an opportunity to give your thoughts and feedback which will help inform our plans.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the session will be held online on Saturday 12 September from 10am – 11:30am.

To register for the online session, please visit evolutionmining.com.au/cowal/ or call 02 6975 3454.



E Display boards

Cowal Gold Operation Underground Mining Development



Where is the Cowal Gold Operation?

The Cowal Gold Operation (CGO) is located approximately 38km north-east of West Wyalong within the Bland Shire Council local government area. It is owned and operated by Evolution Mining.

What is being proposed?

CGO is proposing an underground mining development, which would operate in addition to CGO's existing open cut mine. The proposed changes will include underground mining operations beneath a section of Lake Cowal, an area already included within the Mining Lease 1535.

What will change?

The proposed changes will increase the amount of ore that is extracted and the existing processing facilities will need to be augmented. However, this will not change the overall surface footprint of the mine.

There will also be a box cut entry to the underground mine.

The underground mine will produce waste rock that will be accommodated on existing emplacements.

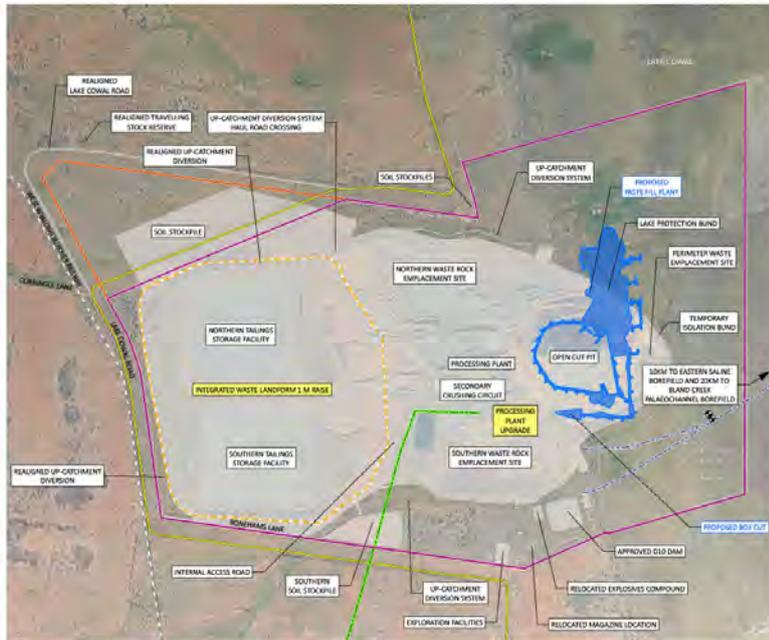
The development will involve a minor increase to the height of the integrated waste landform. However, the overall footprint of the integrated waste landform would remain unchanged.

What will stay the same?

Because the proposed changes will occur underground and within the mine's existing footprint, most aspects of the mine's operations will stay the same. This includes:

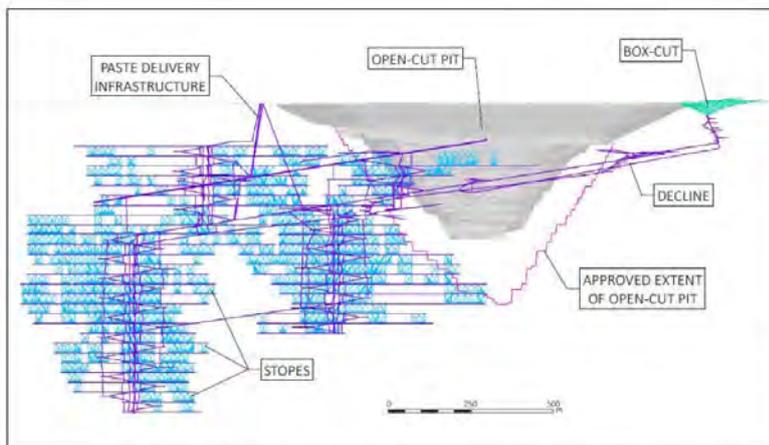
- extent and depth of the open pit
- lake isolation system
- maximum waste rock emplacement heights
- cyanide leaching circuit
- cyanide destruction methods
- cyanide concentration levels
- approved daily or annual extraction limits of the Bland Creek Paleochannel Borefield
- approved processing rates
- exploration activities
- mining tenements
- hours of operation
- site access road
- power and water supply sources
- 24 hour operations.

About the proposal



Cowal Gold Operations current site plan and proposed underground development

- KEY**
- Proposed underground development
 - Mining lease (ML1535)
 - Mining lease (ML1791)
 - DA14/98 approved surface disturbance
 - Indicative integrated waste landform perimeter
 - Electricity transmission line
 - Water supply pipeline
 - Saline groundwater supply bore
 - Rail line
 - Main road
 - Underground development elements
 - Mod 16 surface elements
 - Approved surface elements



Isometric view from the north-west of the proposed development

- KEY**
- Existing open pit
 - Currently approved final open cut pit shell
 - Proposed underground development

When will the underground mining development start operating?

Subject to approvals construction for the underground mining development will commence in 2021, with operations starting in 2023.

How many new staff will be required?

Existing jobs for the open cut mine will be retained and it is estimated that around 200 full time equivalent jobs could be created at the peak of construction.

Once in operation, it is estimated that a further 160 jobs will be created, taking the operational workforce to approximately 660 full time jobs.

Where possible, CGO will upskill our existing workforce and recruit from or to the region, allowing us to continue to support the region for around the next 15+ years.

How will the extension be managed?

The project will be developed using a low intensity stoping mining method. This is the process of extracting the desired ore from an underground mine, leaving behind an open space known as a 'stope'.

Stoping is commonly used in underground mineral mining, and is suitable to be used in the Lake Cowal area where the surrounding rock is strong enough to allow drilling, blasting and removal of ore without caving.

Will the stopes remain empty once mining has occurred?

No, they will not. As underground mining progresses, the stope voids will be progressively backfilled with paste that is made from tailings and cement, which is pumped back in to fill the void.

Tailings are the waste products from ore processing.

Proposed environmental studies



Since CGO spoke to the community last year, the proposal has been refined and CGO is preparing, and finalising the technical studies for the underground mining development.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will include technical studies and assess the economic, environmental and social impacts of the project. Evolution Mining has engaged third-party experts to conduct these studies.

To support the underground mining development, CGO is also proposing to make modifications to its existing surface operations approved under DA14/98, named Modification 16 – surface infrastructure proposal.

CGO anticipates the EIS and Modification 16 will be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) early in Q4 2020.



The following technical studies will be submitted as part of the EIS:

Subsidence

CGO have engaged subsidence specialists Beck Engineering to investigate the potential for changes in rock mass permeability as a result of the underground development.

Groundwater

Coffey has assessed potential impacts of the underground development on the aquifer and the potential for interaction with surface water.

Surface water

The assessment prepared by Hydro Engineering & Consulting (HEC) considers impacts to the local hydrology associated with the underground development and updates the mine's water balance model.

Noise, vibration and blasting

EMM Consulting has undertaken a quantitative noise and blast vibration assessment in accordance with the NSW Environmental Protection Authority Noise Policy for Industry and Australian and New Zealand Environment Council blast guidelines.

Ecology

The impacts on biodiversity have been assessed in accordance with the *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage

Impacts on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage are being considered under the relevant provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Heritage Act 1977*.

Air quality

EMM Consulting has assessed all potential air pollutant concentrations related to the underground development in accordance with NSW Environment Protection Authority guidelines.

Traffic and transport

The traffic assessment has considered the likely project impacts to road capacity, traffic safety and site access including Austroads intersection design standards and the likely maximum size of trucks using each intersection during construction.

Social

Elton Consulting is reviewing the potential social impacts of the underground development in accordance with the DPIE Social Impact Assessment Guidelines, which will be lodged with the EIS.

Economic

AEC has undertaken a cost benefit analysis for the proposal and assess the likely economic impacts benefits of the proposal in accordance with the NSW Guidelines for Economic Assessment of Mining and Coal Seam Gas Proposals.

Soils and rehabilitation

EMM Consulting is assessing the proposed developments on the soils and land capability, and any likely impacts of the proposed development on existing landforms and topography.

Other matters

The EIS will also address other environmental matters such as visual impacts, hazards and risks, greenhouse gas and sustainability.

Planning approvals pathway



CGO is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to accompany the development application for the proposed underground mining development.

CGO is now undertaking consultation with the community prior to submitting the EIS, later this year.

Once a draft EIS has been prepared, it will then be on public exhibition.

The community and other stakeholders will then be invited to make a submission before an assessment report and recommended conditions of consent are prepared by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

As this proposed extension falls into the category of a State Significant Development, the consent authority will be a delegate of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces or the Independent Planning Commission.

CGO develops initial concept design options for the project and undertakes early consultation with the community and stakeholder agencies.

DPIE issues Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the preparation of an EIS for the proposal.

**WE ARE
HERE ▶**

CGO prepares an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the SEARs.

CGO will undertake consultation with the community prior to submitting the EIS, to help inform the project and provide opportunities for feedback.

The EIS and the State Significant Development (SSD) application are submitted to DPIE to be placed on public exhibition for at least 28 days. During this time, the community has the opportunity to write a submission and have their say.

After Exhibition, the Department will publish all submissions received and Evolution Mining will prepare a Response to Submissions Report to respond to any issues raised.

The Consent Authority will evaluate and provide a determination of the SSD.

Have your say



You are invited to our Online Community Information Sessions, where you can find out more, ask questions and provide your feedback. See registration details below.

We also encourage you to fill out one of our community surveys – providing us with your thoughts and feedback to help inform our plans. You can fill out one of the paper copies available with this display and use the free return to sender envelopes – or complete the survey online via evolutionmining.com.au/cowal/

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Register for one of the sessions at a time that suits you, or contact our community engagement team.

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- **Saturday 12 September**, 10am - 11.30am

To register

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Website: evolutionmining.com.au/cowal/

Call: 02 6975 3454

Evolution Mining's community focus

Evolution Mining seeks to form genuine partnerships with our community stakeholders by listening to and understanding their needs and working together towards a common purpose. Our partnership approach to community relations goes to the core of our values of Accountability, Excellence, Respect and Safety.

We support a number of local community initiatives, including:

- sponsoring community events and organisations
- providing local emergency response support
- partnering with the community on sustainable community development programs
- supporting local employment and procurement
- supporting shared value projects.

How to have your say

✉ Email your feedback to cgo.community@evolutionmining.com

☎ Call Cowal Gold Operations on **02 6975 3454**

F Display centres

Cowal Gold Operation Underground Mining Development



Where is the Cowal Gold Operation?

The Cowal Gold Operation (CGO) is located approximately 15km north-west of West Wyalusing within the Bandjima Local Government area. It is owned and operated by Evolution Mining.

What is being proposed?

CGO is proposing an underground mining development, which will increase the amount of ore that is extracted and the mining process. The proposed changes will include underground mining operations located in the area of the Cowal Gold Operation. The proposed changes will include:

What will change?

The proposed changes will increase the amount of ore that is extracted and the mining process. The proposed changes will include:

What will stay the same?

Because the proposed changes will occur underground and within the mine's existing footprint, most aspects of the mine's operation will stay the same. This includes:

Evolution Mining's community focus

About the proposal



When will the underground mining development start operating?

Support for the underground mining development will start in 2021. The underground mining development is expected to start operating in 2021.

How many new staff will be required?

Evolution Mining will be creating jobs for the underground mining development. The number of new staff required will be approximately 100.

How will the extension be managed?

The project will be managed using a combination of underground and surface operations. The project will be managed using a combination of underground and surface operations.

Will the steps remain empty once mining has occurred?

Yes, they will. An underground mining development will be created within the mine's existing footprint. The underground mining development will be created within the mine's existing footprint.

Have your say



Online Community Information Sessions

Evolution Mining is holding online community information sessions. The sessions will be held on the following dates:

How to have your say

Evolution Mining is holding online community information sessions. The sessions will be held on the following dates:

Planning approvals pathway



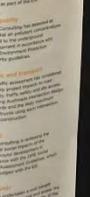
CGO is applying for Environmental Assessment (EA) to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

CGO is applying for Environmental Assessment (EA) to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). The EA process will involve a number of steps, including:

CGO will submit an Environmental Assessment (EA) application to the DPIE.

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Proposed environmental studies



CGO will conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) study.

CGO will conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) study. The EA study will involve a number of steps, including:

CGO will conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) study.

CGO will conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) study. The EA study will involve a number of steps, including:

Cowal Gold Operation

Evolution Mining

Where is the Cowal Gold Operation?
The Cowal Gold Operation is located in the Shire of Invermay, approximately 100km north of Melbourne, Victoria.

What will change?
The proposed changes include the construction of a new processing plant, the expansion of the open-pit mine, and the development of a new tailings storage facility.

What will stay the same?
The existing infrastructure, including the road network and the current processing plant, will remain in place.

What is being proposed?
Evolution Mining is proposing a new processing plant with a capacity of 1.5 million tonnes per annum, and a new tailings storage facility with a capacity of 10 million tonnes.

Planning approvals pathway

The planning approvals pathway involves several key stages: 1. Proposal, 2. Pre-application meeting, 3. Application for planning permission, 4. Assessment and public consultation, 5. Decision on planning permission, 6. Construction.

About the project

Evolution Mining

How will the environment be managed?
Evolution Mining is committed to minimizing the environmental impact of the project. This includes measures to protect water resources, manage soil erosion, and restore the site after mining operations have ceased.

Will the slopes remain stable after mining has occurred?
Evolution Mining has conducted extensive geotechnical studies to ensure that the slopes of the mine will remain stable after mining operations have ceased. This includes measures to stabilize the slopes and monitor their condition over time.

Proposed environmental studies

The proposed environmental studies include: 1. Baseline environmental assessment, 2. Impact assessment, 3. Mitigation measures, 4. Monitoring and reporting.

Evolution MINING

Have your say

Evolution Mining's Community Consultation Process

Evolution Mining is committed to transparency and community consultation throughout the project. We will provide regular updates on the project's progress and any changes to the planning application.

How to have your say

- Attend a public meeting
- Submit written comments
- Participate in a focus group

G Online survey results

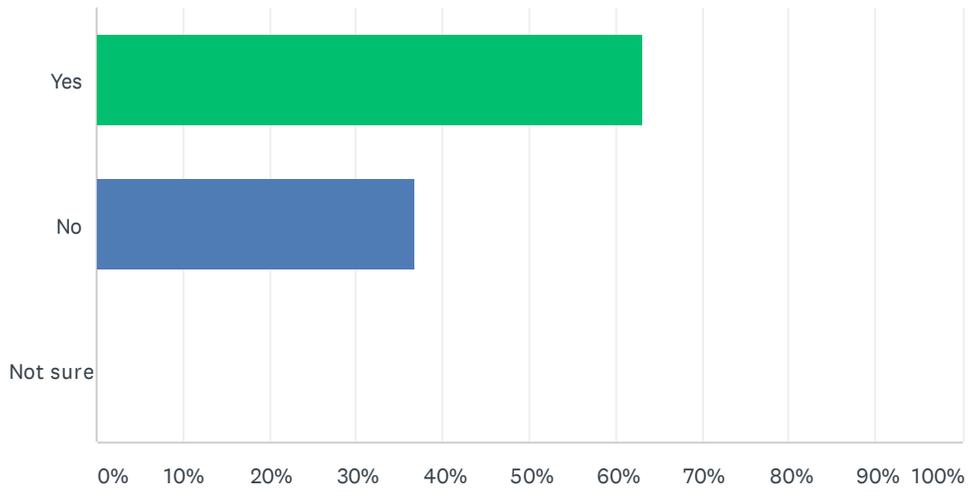
Q1 What is your postcode?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	2671	9/7/2020 2:59 PM
2	2671	9/6/2020 7:33 AM
3	2671	9/5/2020 2:47 PM
4	2671	9/5/2020 10:59 AM
5	2671	9/4/2020 5:49 PM
6	2671	9/4/2020 5:22 PM
7	2671	9/4/2020 2:05 PM
8	2668	9/4/2020 12:58 PM
9	2671	9/4/2020 12:55 PM
10	2671	9/4/2020 11:58 AM
11	2671	9/4/2020 11:57 AM
12	2671	9/4/2020 11:31 AM
13	2671	9/4/2020 10:44 AM
14	2671	9/4/2020 10:25 AM
15	2877	9/2/2020 8:35 PM
16	2871	9/2/2020 12:47 PM
17	2871	9/1/2020 2:55 PM
18	2671	9/1/2020 10:09 AM
19	2671	9/1/2020 10:09 AM

Q2 Were you aware of CGO’s proposed Underground Project and Accommodation Village before now?

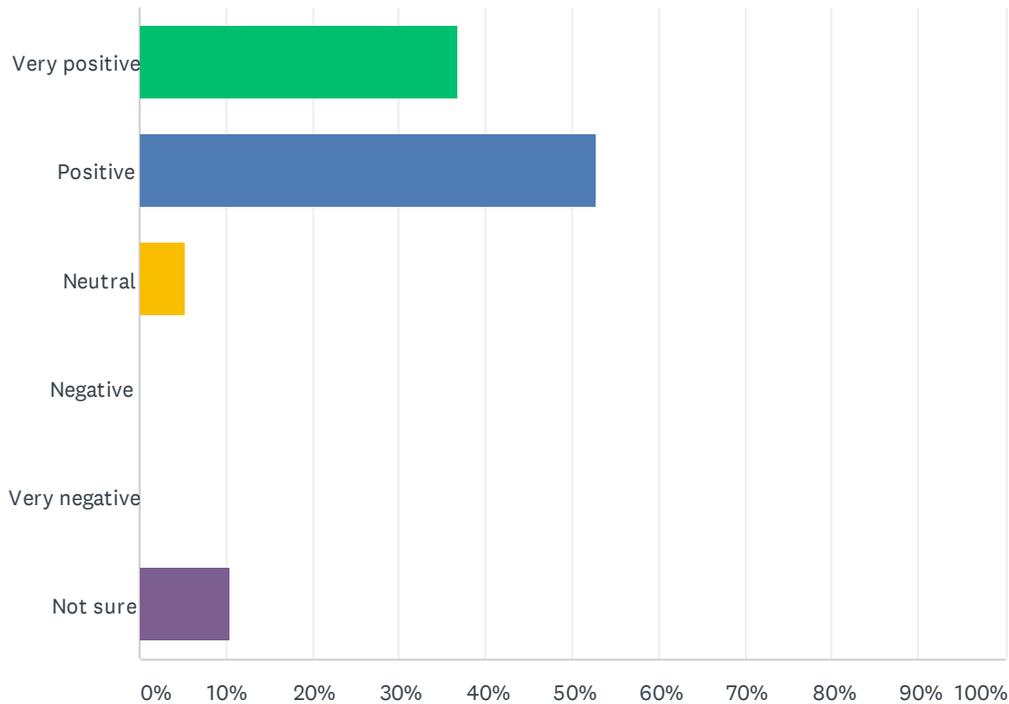
Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	63.16%	12
No	36.84%	7
Not sure	0.00%	0
TOTAL		19

Q3 What would you say the community's general perception of the proposed project is?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very positive	36.84%	7
Positive	52.63%	10
Neutral	5.26%	1
Negative	0.00%	0
Very negative	0.00%	0
Not sure	10.53%	2
Total Respondents: 19		

#	NOT SURE	DATE
1	i dont know	9/4/2020 5:49 PM
2	Little information given to the boarder community	9/2/2020 12:47 PM

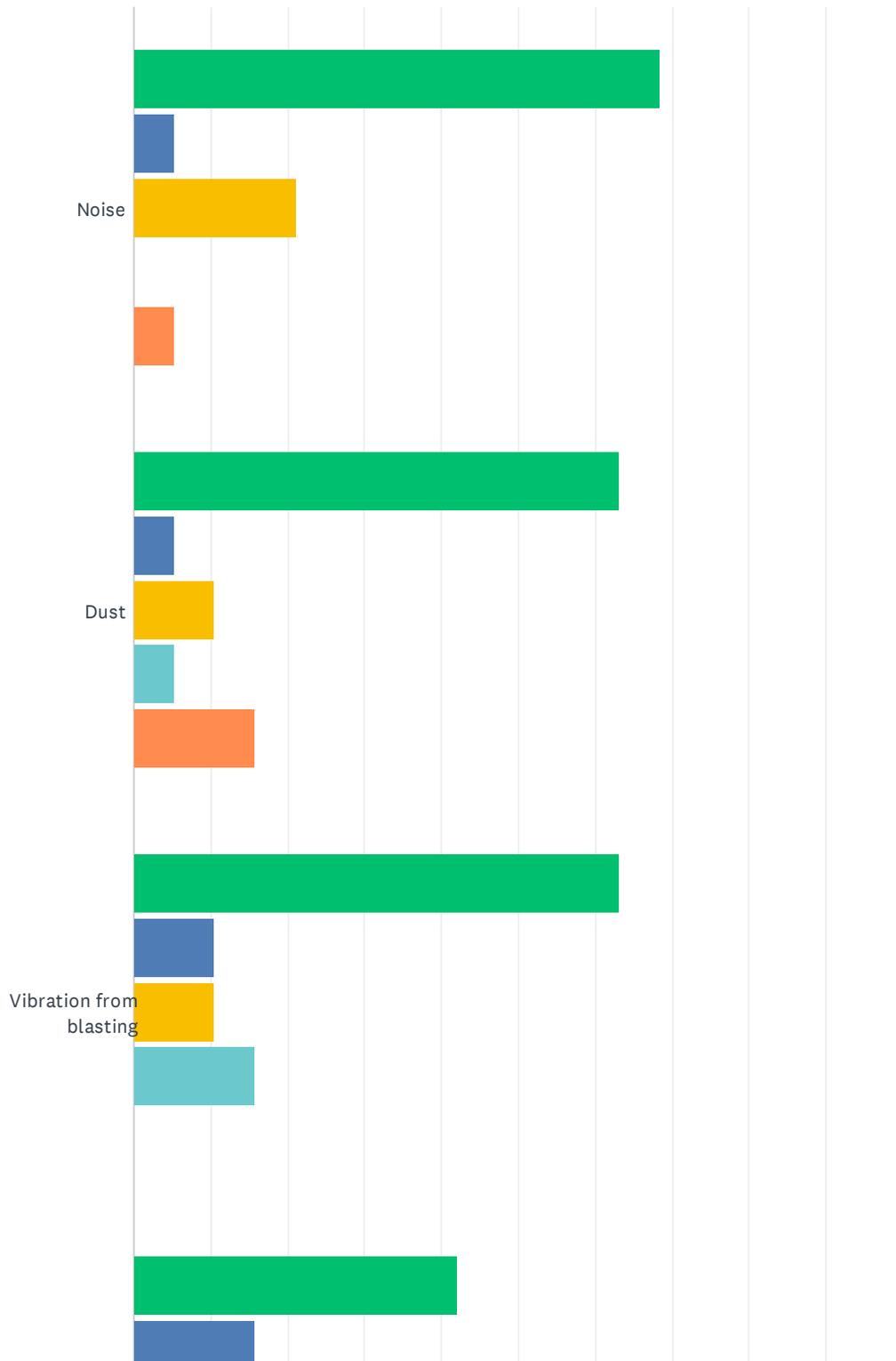
Q4 Broadly speaking, what do you value about your local area? Why do you like living here?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 1

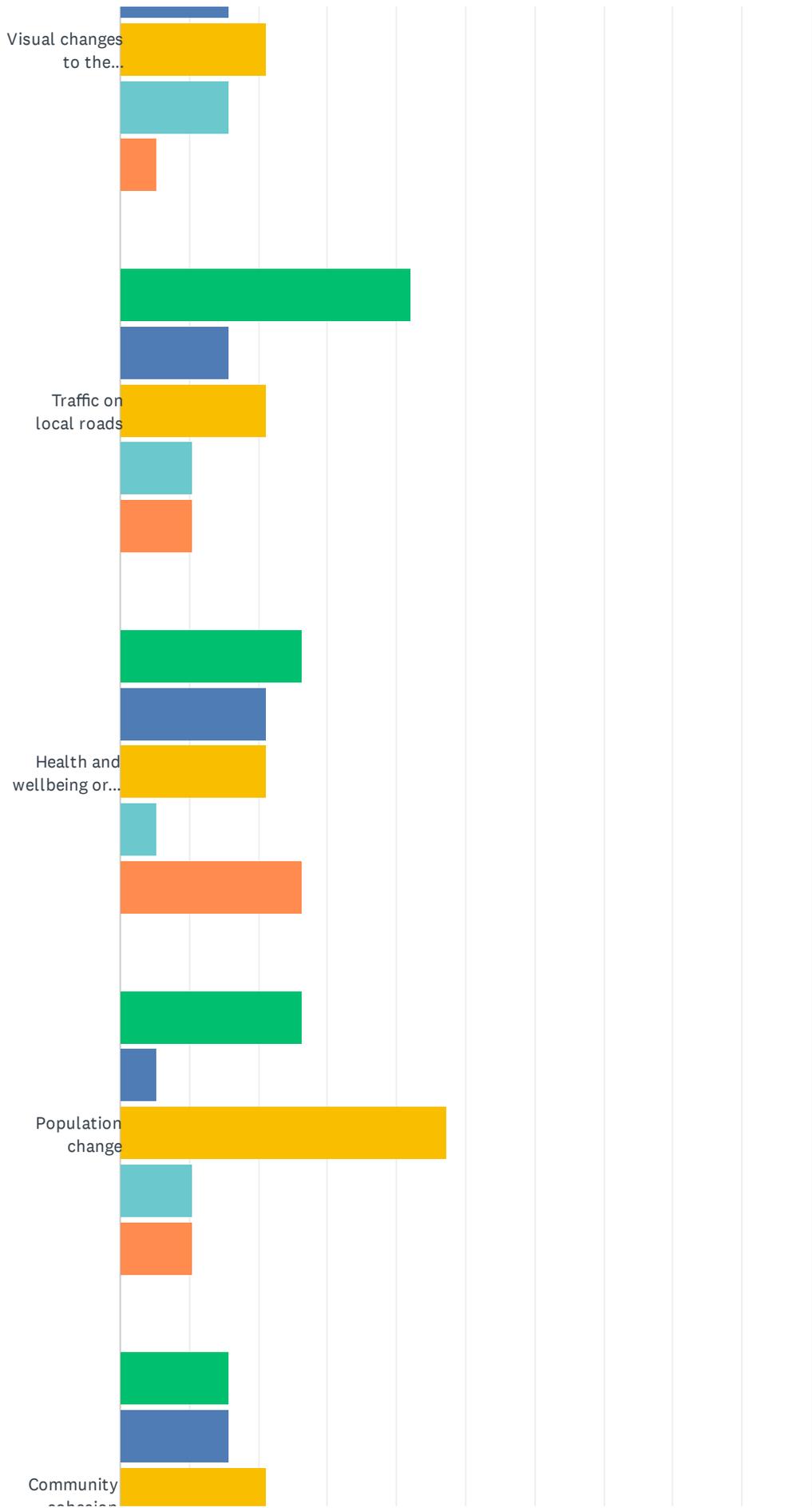
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The great small community and family friendly environment	9/7/2020 2:59 PM
2	Friends	9/6/2020 7:33 AM
3	the small town feel within an awesome community	9/5/2020 2:47 PM
4	Safe friendly community	9/5/2020 10:59 AM
5	small, quiet and supportive community. Clean air and environment	9/4/2020 5:49 PM
6	The young families in town brought here with the mine. The mine flow on effects in the community	9/4/2020 5:22 PM
7	Community, it's a town that looks out for each other and supports each other.	9/4/2020 2:05 PM
8	quiet country life	9/4/2020 12:58 PM
9	Once it was the town now it has become too much to the shire to allow new business, they need a change in leadership and do more for the mines and people who live there	9/4/2020 12:55 PM
10	Yes	9/4/2020 11:58 AM
11	The sense of 'community' and the general safety / family friendly township.	9/4/2020 11:57 AM
12	Most people support each other. We love getting together and enjoying community events.	9/4/2020 11:31 AM
13	I have lived in the bush almost all my life (76).	9/4/2020 10:44 AM
14	Quiet safe environment	9/2/2020 8:35 PM
15	The rural lifestyle	9/2/2020 12:47 PM
16	safe and inclusive collaboration with lots of opportunities for families	9/1/2020 2:55 PM
17	The safety and the sense of community.	9/1/2020 10:09 AM
18	Safety, sense of community	9/1/2020 10:09 AM

Q5 Based on the proposed changes that have been identified for the underground mining development and Modification 16, please indicate how these changes concern or interest to you with one (1) indicating no concern/interest and five (5) being high level of concern or interest.

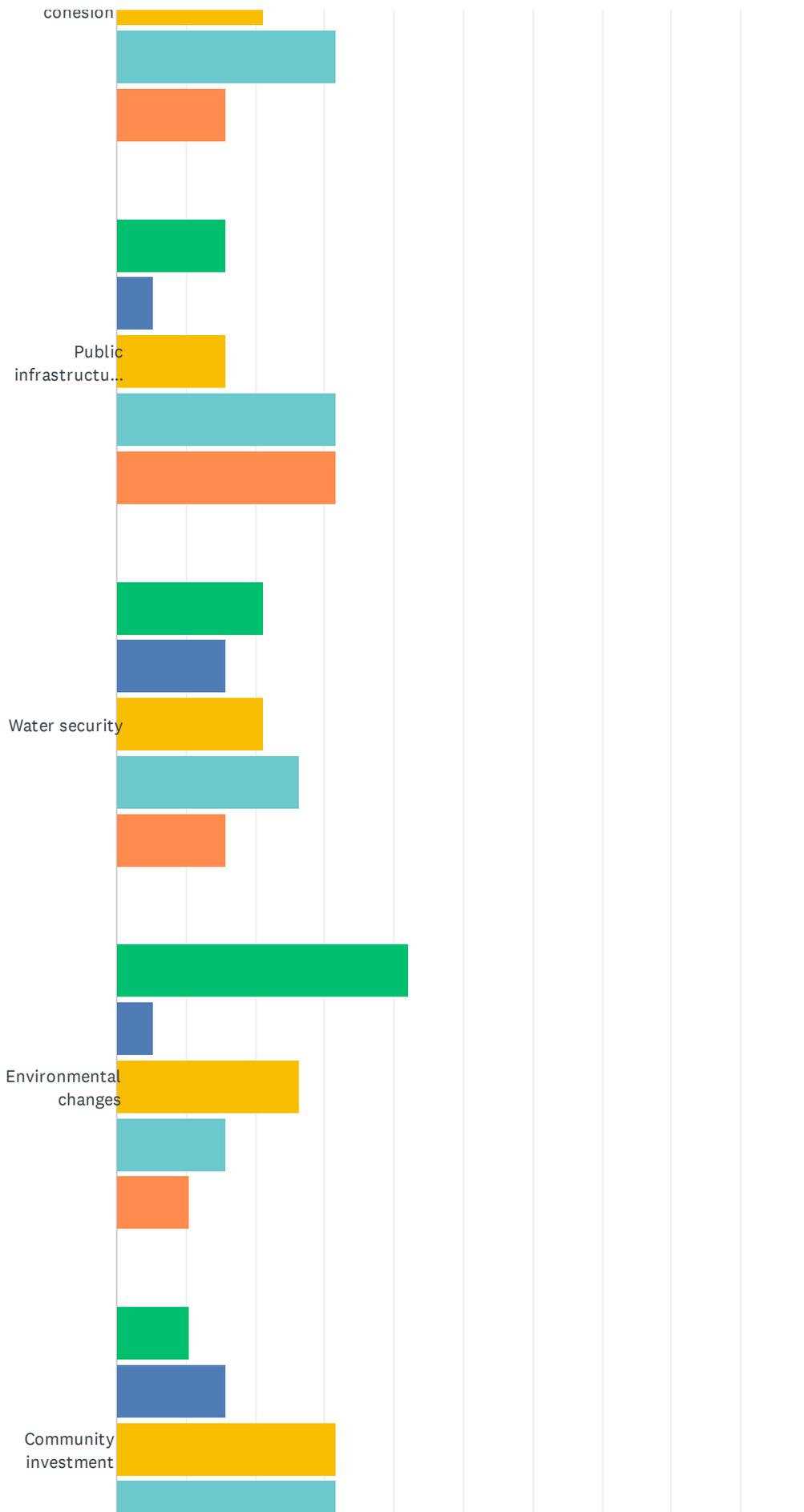
Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



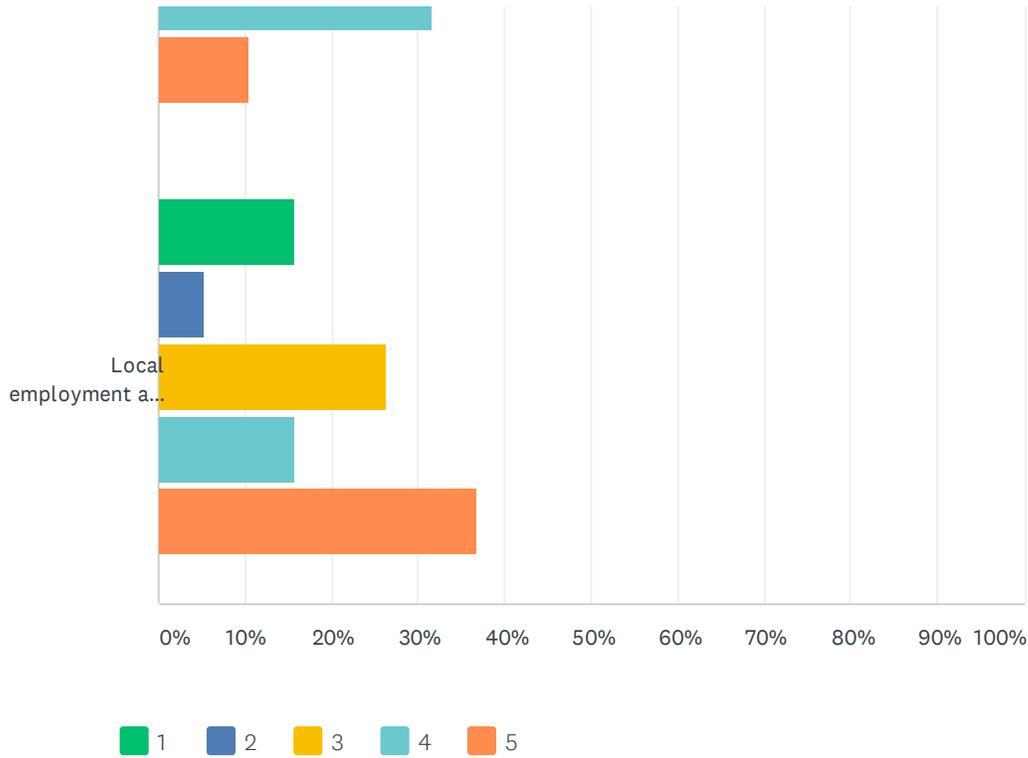
Community survey for the CGO Underground Project



Community survey for the CGO Underground Project



Community survey for the CGO Underground Project



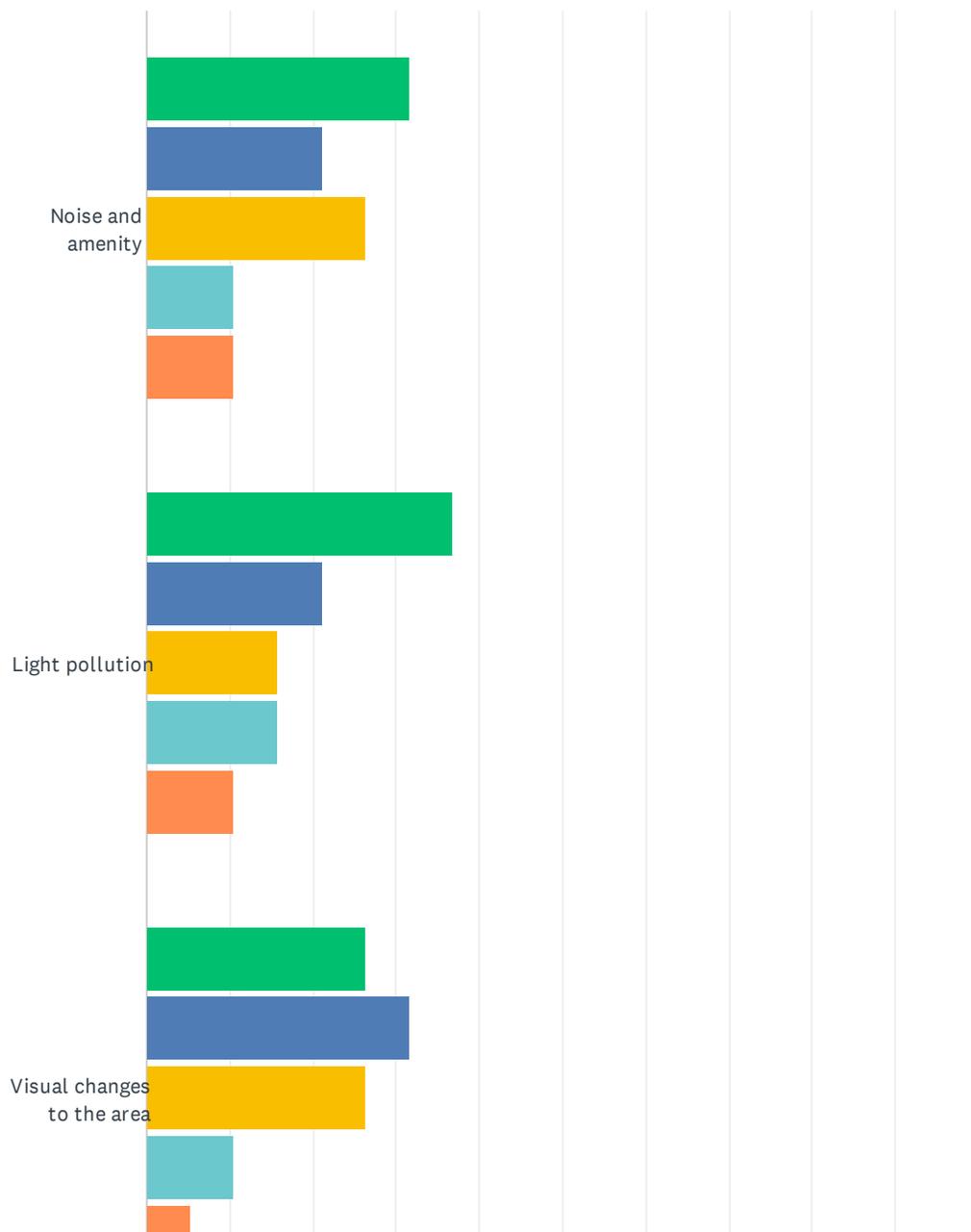
	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Noise	68.42% 13	5.26% 1	21.05% 4	0.00% 0	5.26% 1	19	1.68
Dust	63.16% 12	5.26% 1	10.53% 2	5.26% 1	15.79% 3	19	2.05
Vibration from blasting	63.16% 12	10.53% 2	10.53% 2	15.79% 3	0.00% 0	19	1.79
Visual changes to the landscape	42.11% 8	15.79% 3	21.05% 4	15.79% 3	5.26% 1	19	2.26
Traffic on local roads	42.11% 8	15.79% 3	21.05% 4	10.53% 2	10.53% 2	19	2.32
Health and wellbeing or public safety	26.32% 5	21.05% 4	21.05% 4	5.26% 1	26.32% 5	19	2.84
Population change	26.32% 5	5.26% 1	47.37% 9	10.53% 2	10.53% 2	19	2.74
Community cohesion	15.79% 3	15.79% 3	21.05% 4	31.58% 6	15.79% 3	19	3.16
Public infrastructure, services and facilities	15.79% 3	5.26% 1	15.79% 3	31.58% 6	31.58% 6	19	3.58
Water security	21.05% 4	15.79% 3	21.05% 4	26.32% 5	15.79% 3	19	3.00
Environmental changes	42.11% 8	5.26% 1	26.32% 5	15.79% 3	10.53% 2	19	2.47
Community investment	10.53% 2	15.79% 3	31.58% 6	31.58% 6	10.53% 2	19	3.16
Local employment and procurement	15.79% 3	5.26% 1	26.32% 5	15.79% 3	36.84% 7	19	3.53

Community survey for the CGO Underground Project

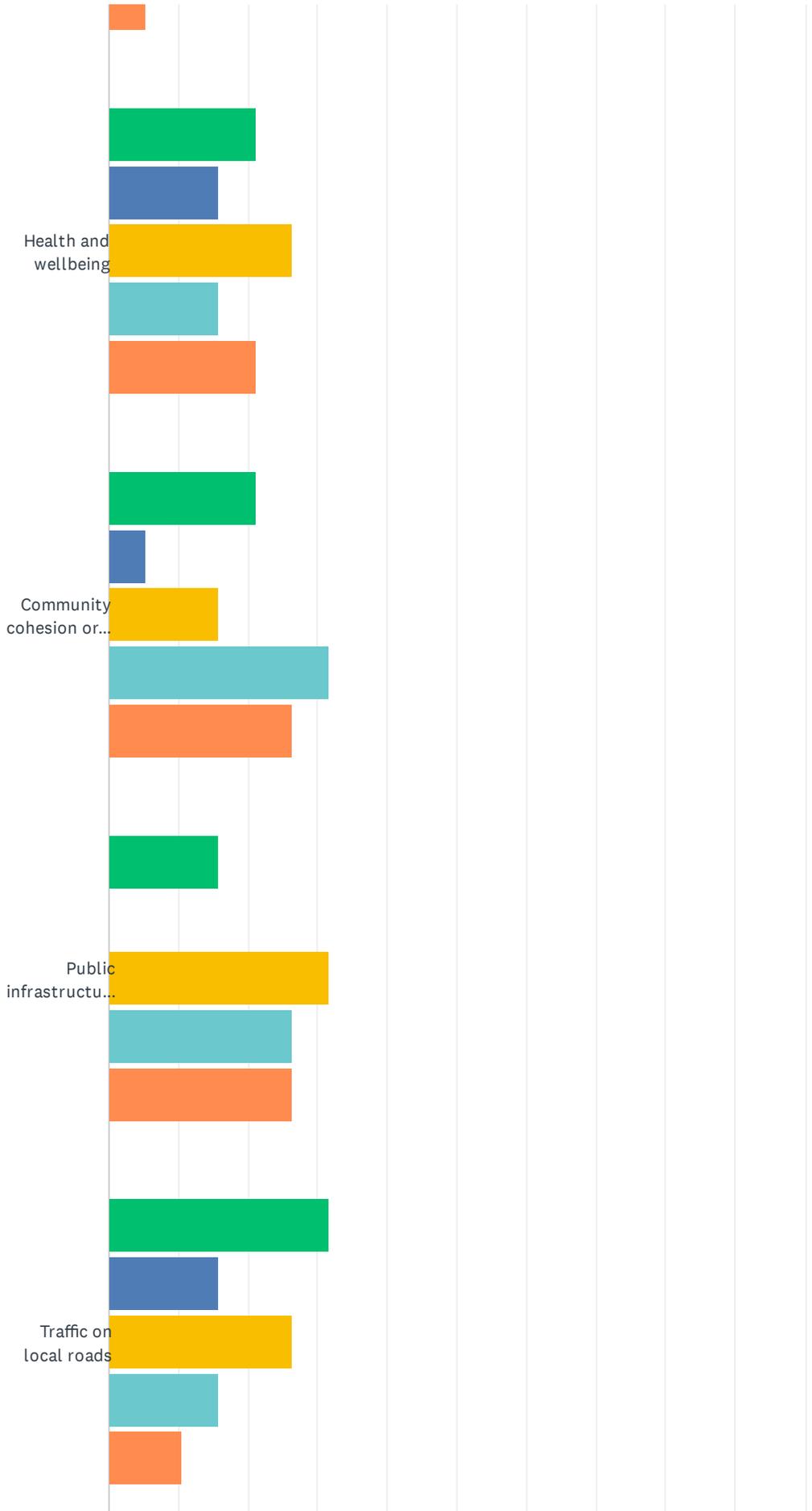
#	PLEASE ADD ANY COMMENTS YOU FEEL ARE NECESSARY.	DATE
1	hoping they employ actual locals who live in our town/area	9/5/2020 2:47 PM
2	I think it will be another great employment opportunity for people to move to our town. Hopefully they enjoy being part of a community and put back into the town instead of thinking of it as a stepping stone to climb the ladder to live elsewhere.	9/4/2020 2:05 PM
3	I feel this is nothing but a positive thing for our town. We need more families in this town to help the local economy and businesses. Anything to bring more jobs to town is fantastic.	9/4/2020 11:57 AM

Q6 From conversations held with local councils and the community in 2019, it is clear that finding appropriate accommodation solutions for the proposed increased workforce is important. We intend to have an accommodation village in West Wyalong and a number of sites, sizes and designs are to be considered. This is our preferred solution; however we are still in the early assessment phase but it's important to know what is matters to you. Please indicate how the below concern or interest to you with one (1) indicating no concern/interest and five (5) being high level of concern or interest.

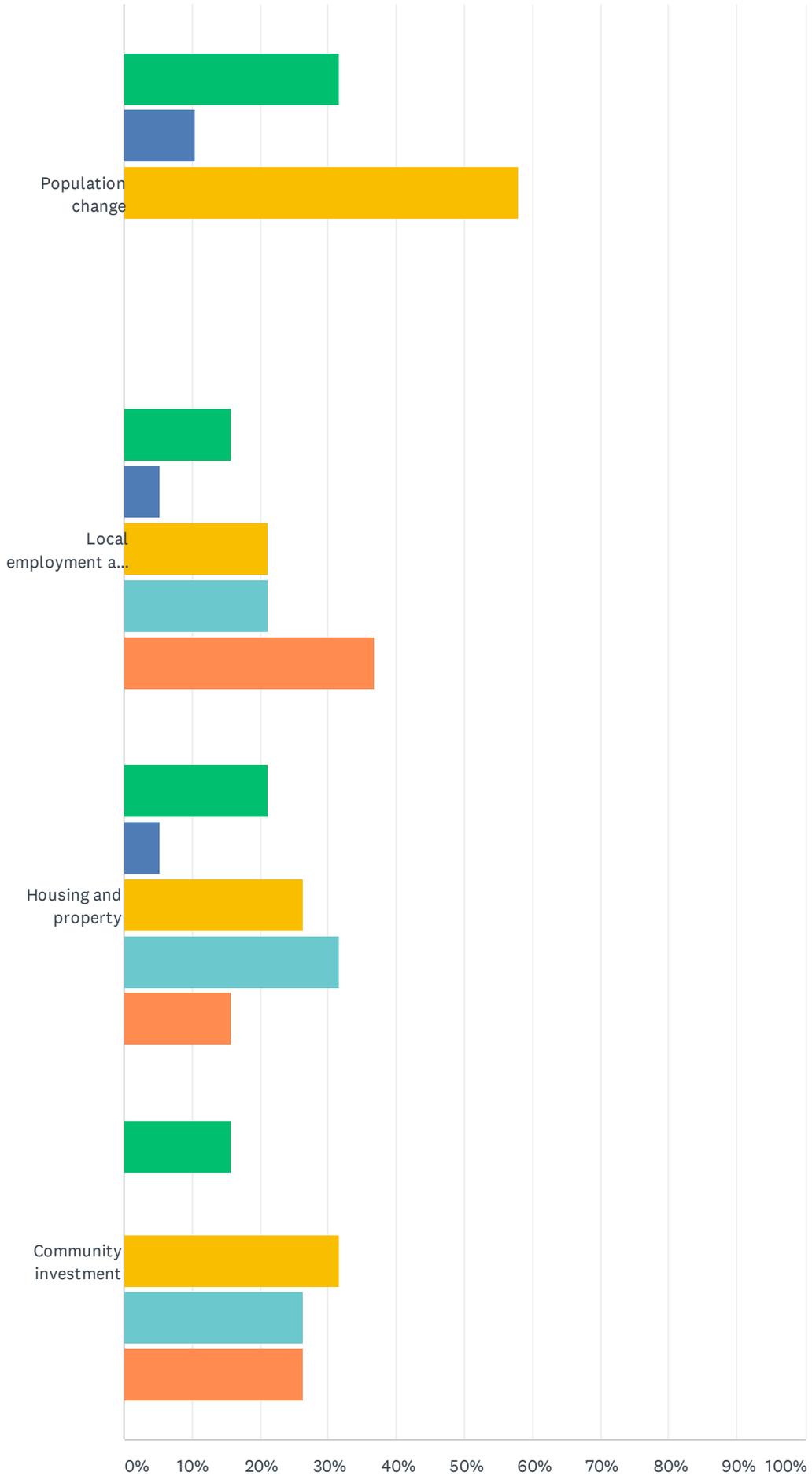
Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



Community survey for the CGO Underground Project



Community survey for the CGO Underground Project



Community survey for the CGO Underground Project

■ 1
 ■ 2
 ■ 3
 ■ 4
 ■ 5

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Noise and amenity	31.58% 6	21.05% 4	26.32% 5	10.53% 2	10.53% 2	19	2.47
Light pollution	36.84% 7	21.05% 4	15.79% 3	15.79% 3	10.53% 2	19	2.42
Visual changes to the area	26.32% 5	31.58% 6	26.32% 5	10.53% 2	5.26% 1	19	2.37
Health and wellbeing	21.05% 4	15.79% 3	26.32% 5	15.79% 3	21.05% 4	19	3.00
Community cohesion or public safety in local towns	21.05% 4	5.26% 1	15.79% 3	31.58% 6	26.32% 5	19	3.37
Public infrastructure, services and facilities	15.79% 3	0.00% 0	31.58% 6	26.32% 5	26.32% 5	19	3.47
Traffic on local roads	31.58% 6	15.79% 3	26.32% 5	15.79% 3	10.53% 2	19	2.58
Population change	31.58% 6	10.53% 2	57.89% 11	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	19	2.26
Local employment and procurement	15.79% 3	5.26% 1	21.05% 4	21.05% 4	36.84% 7	19	3.58
Housing and property	21.05% 4	5.26% 1	26.32% 5	31.58% 6	15.79% 3	19	3.16
Community investment	15.79% 3	0.00% 0	31.58% 6	26.32% 5	26.32% 5	19	3.47

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)YOU MAY LIKE TO ADD COMMENTS TO DESCRIBE WHY YOU HAVE ANSWERED THE WAY YOU HAVE OR TO PROVIDE FURTHER DETAIL.	DATE
1	they have too many houses in town. Sell them off so people who live here have an opportunity to buy and live here. Keep some housing for workers etc. But get people into the camp specifically the ones who leave after their swing. Maybe also encourage families to come work and live here.	9/5/2020 2:47 PM
2	We will need a brothel if last time was anything to go by	9/4/2020 11:58 AM

Q7 Which other social or environmental matters would you like to know more about in the context of the CGO Underground, the incoming workforce or the extending of the life of mine?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 5

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Both	9/7/2020 2:59 PM
2	Recreational opportunities	9/6/2020 7:33 AM
3	Hoping mine life is as long as they say, keep Dido workers in camps. Think about employing mums and women for full time and offer crib relief full time positions. Employ actual locals.	9/5/2020 2:47 PM
4	Will people be required to move to west Wyalong and if not why.	9/5/2020 10:59 AM
5	I would like to know how the negative environmental impact which will occur is going to be managed and whether the company and council even care about this. Also the continued impact on indigenous heritage in the area will be dealt with rather than being swept under the carpet and forgotten.	9/4/2020 5:49 PM
6	Extending mine life	9/4/2020 5:22 PM
7	I look forward to expanding the population and economy of our town.	9/4/2020 11:57 AM
8	I just hope it keeps going. It's the heart of West Wyalong.	9/4/2020 11:31 AM
9	The community needs to be carefully informed at all stages of the development.	9/4/2020 10:44 AM
10	What happens when the mine finishes	9/2/2020 8:35 PM
11	Will it be local employment or fly in fly out workers?	9/2/2020 12:47 PM
12	No FiFo Diverse shift patterns that allow for family interaction	9/1/2020 2:55 PM
13	N/A	9/1/2020 10:09 AM
14	Extending the life of the mine	9/1/2020 10:09 AM

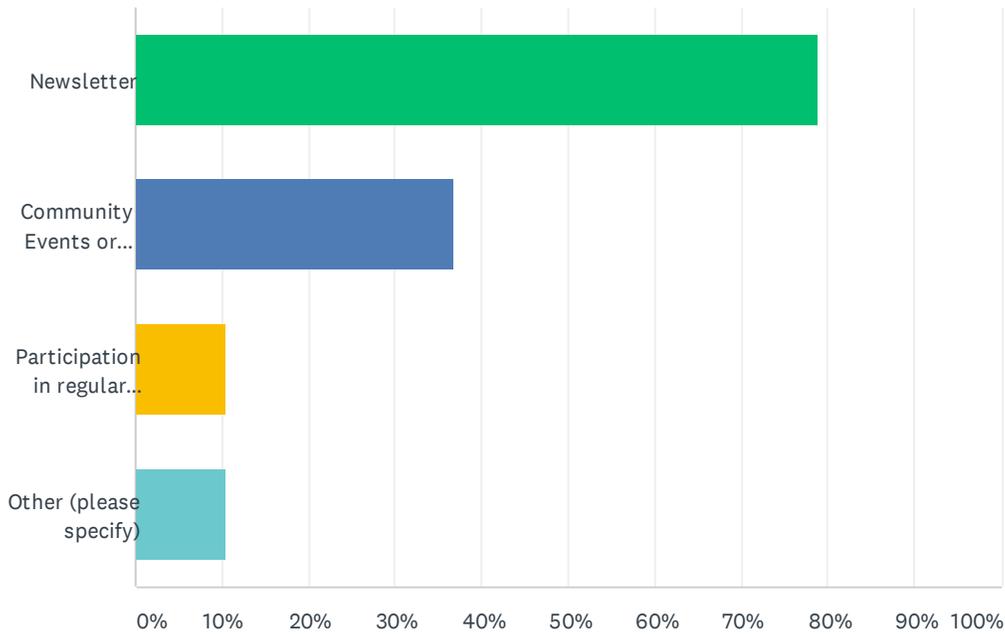
Q8 Based on CGO's current growth plans, what do you think Evolution Mining should focus its local community support and investment on in the future?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Boosting support for people to live and stay local for education, shopping, events etc...	9/7/2020 2:59 PM
2	Community facility enhancement	9/6/2020 7:33 AM
3	Keep everything local, the towns going to shit as it is. Create more opportunities for locals so we can keep our community viable.	9/5/2020 2:47 PM
4	Mental health services for all the community	9/5/2020 10:59 AM
5	It would be good to see Evolution actually put some funds back into the community in a postive way.	9/4/2020 5:49 PM
6	The towns long term survival	9/4/2020 5:22 PM
7	The community benefits in so many ways from Evolution and the amazing donations they have made to local activities. Schools and medical services are backbones in our community that we need to keep to a high standard to stop people going out of town. Encouraging people to shop in town and keep businesses open is a huge issue.	9/4/2020 2:05 PM
8	More accomadation more affordable shops for kids cloths	9/4/2020 12:55 PM
9	Mental health	9/4/2020 11:58 AM
10	Anything to help our community, I think what you are currently doing is great. Community / tourism / community groups / local schools etc. I think that there should be more mine 'open days' for the public that can be used in conjunction with local town events, it is a big draw card to town. (After Covid obviously)	9/4/2020 11:57 AM
11	Wellbeing	9/4/2020 11:31 AM
12	Jobs and accommodation.	9/4/2020 10:44 AM
13	Jobs	9/2/2020 8:35 PM
14	Community infrastructure	9/2/2020 12:47 PM
15	kids sport	9/1/2020 2:55 PM
16	Community Capacity Building Youth Building the local economy increasing tourism	9/1/2020 10:09 AM
17	Community projects and programs	9/1/2020 10:09 AM

Q9 How you would like to be kept informed of the changes taking place at CGO moving forward and to be involved.

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Newsletter	78.95% 15
Community Events or Forums	36.84% 7
Participation in regular meetings	10.53% 2
Other (please specify)	10.53% 2
Total Respondents: 19	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Facebook	9/4/2020 11:31 AM
2	Social media	9/1/2020 10:09 AM

H Hard copy survey

Community survey for the CGO Underground Project

About this survey

Plans are progressing for the Cowal Gold Operation (CGO) new underground mining development, located 38km north-east of West Wyalong within the Bland Shire Council local government area.

Evolution Mining is proposing an underground mining development in addition to the Cowal Gold Operations' existing cut mine.

Evolution Mining estimates it will initially need around 200 workers to develop the underground mining project and once in operation, it is estimated that a further 160 jobs will be created, taking the operational workforce up to approximately 660 full time jobs. An appropriate accommodation solution is currently being assessed and further information will be shared as plans progress.

To progress plans for the underground mining development, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is now being developed and has been refined since CGO shared information with the local community in 2019.

CGO is now looking for more detailed input and contribution from members of the local community to be integrated into the EIS as well as future management plans at CGO.

This survey aims to understand the interests, concerns, perceptions and aspirations of local community members or residents who live, work and interact most closely with the CGO Project.

Your responses will remain confidential and you can choose to include as much detail or as little as you like.

Questions:

Q: What is your postcode?

A: _____

Q: Were you aware of CGO's proposed Underground Project and Accommodation Village before now?

A: Yes / No / Not sure

Q: What would you say are the community's general perception of the proposed project is?

A: Very positive / positive / neutral / negative / very negative / not sure

Q: Broadly speaking, what do you value about your local area? Why do you like living here?

A:

Q: Based on the proposed changes that have been identified for the underground mining development and Modification 16, please indicate how these changes concern or interest to you with one (1) indicating no concern/interest and five (5) being high level of concern or interest.

A:

Noise	1	2	3	4	5
Dust	1	2	3	4	5
Vibration from blasting	1	2	3	4	5
Visual changes to the landscape	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic on local roads	1	2	3	4	5
Health and wellbeing or public safety	1	2	3	4	5
Population change	1	2	3	4	5

Community cohesion	1	2	3	4	5
Public infrastructure, services and facilities	1	2	3	4	5
Water security	1	2	3	4	5
Environmental changes	1	2	3	4	5
Community investment	1	2	3	4	5
Local economy and employment	1	2	3	4	5

You may like to add comments to describe why you have answered the way you have or to provide further detail.

A:

Q: From conversations held with local councils and the community in 2019, it is clear that finding appropriate accommodation solutions for the proposed increased workforce is important. We intend to have an accommodation village in West Wyalong and a number of sites, sizes and designs are to be considered.

This is our preferred solution; however we are still in the early assessment phase but it's important to know what is matters to you. Please indicate how the below concern or interest to you with one (1) indicating no concern/interest and five (5) being high level of concern or interest.

A:

Noise and amenity	1	2	3	4	5
Light pollution	1	2	3	4	5
Visual changes to the area	1	2	3	4	5
Health and wellbeing	1	2	3	4	5

Community cohesion or public safety in local towns	1	2	3	4	5
Public infrastructure, services and facilities	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic on local roads	1	2	3	4	5
Population change	1	2	3	4	5
Local employment and procurement	1	2	3	4	5
Housing and property	1	2	3	4	5
Community investment	1	2	3	4	5
<p>You may like to add comments to describe why you have answered the way you have or to provide further detail.</p> <p>A:</p> <hr/> <hr/>					
<p>Q: Which other social or environmental matters would you like to know more about in the context of the CGO Underground, the incoming workforce or the extending of the life of mine?</p> <p>A:</p> <hr/> <hr/>					
<p>Q: Based on CGO's current growth plans, what do you think Evolution Mining should focus its local community support and investment on in the future?</p> <p>A:</p> <hr/> <hr/>					
<p>Q: How you would like to be kept informed of the changes taking place at CGO moving forward and to be involved.</p> <p>A: community (e)newsletter / community events or forums / participation in regular meetings / other</p>					

I **Online Community Information Session presentation material**

Sustained Growth Of Cowal Gold Operation

- Underground Development



COWAL GOLD OPERATION

Underground Development Project

Online Community Information Session

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land where we meet, The Wiradjuri people.

From the Great Dividing Range in the east and bordered by the Macquarie, Lachlan and Murrumbidgee rivers, we are honoured to operate on these lands.

We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.



AGENDA

Introduction and workshop purpose

Presentations and questions

Facilitated discussion

Speakers

- John Penhall General Manager
- Simon Coates Senior Environmental Advisor
- Mark Hartig Manager of People and Culture and Community

WORKSHOP PURPOSE

- Welcome and introductions
 - Project team and participants
- Workshop purpose
 - Provide an update on the Underground Development Project (SSD)
 - Engage and listen to feedback from stakeholders on the project
 - Answer questions from stakeholders and the community
 - Outline next steps
- How to participate
 - Online workshop etiquette

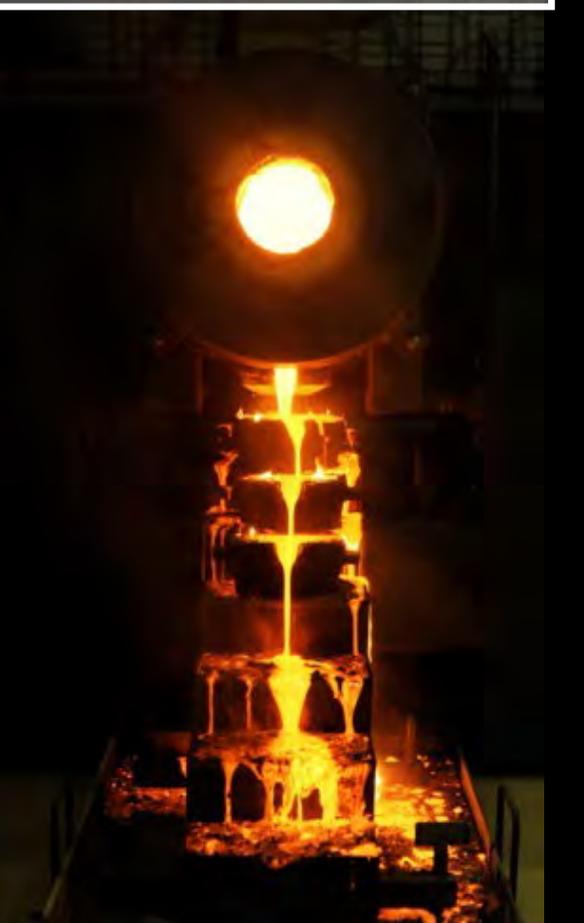
COWAL GOLD OPERATIONS

- Located at Lake Cowal, approximately 35 km northeast of West Wyalong
- Currently employing ~500 people
- Originally approved on 2 February 1999
- Operations commenced in 2005 with approvals in place to process at a rate of 9.8Mtpa, until 2032
- All ore processing and waste emplacement undertaken on site
- Modification 14 approved by DPIE on 4 October 2018
- Most recent Modification 15 (administrative modification) approved on 26 August 2019



ABOUT THE PROPOSAL- WHAT WILL CHANGE?

- Development and Operation of an underground mine
 - A 'box cut' entry to the underground mine
 - Construction of a paste backfill plant
 - Re-design of the mine surface infrastructure area
 - A minor increase to the final rehabilitated height of the integrated waste landform (~1 metre)
 - Provides a platform for further exploration activities
- Underground mine life ~15+ years
- Creates an additional ~160 permanent roles, with the opportunity for upskilling or attracting new people to our region
- Will bring additional local and district business opportunities



WHAT WILL STAY THE SAME?

Lake isolation system

No additional surface disturbance outside the currently approved disturbance footprint

No change to waste rock dump maximum heights

Water sourced to stay within existing limits of the Bland Creek Paleochannel Borefield

Only minor modifications to surface processing facilities

Exploration activities

Mining Leases

Hours of operation, 24/7

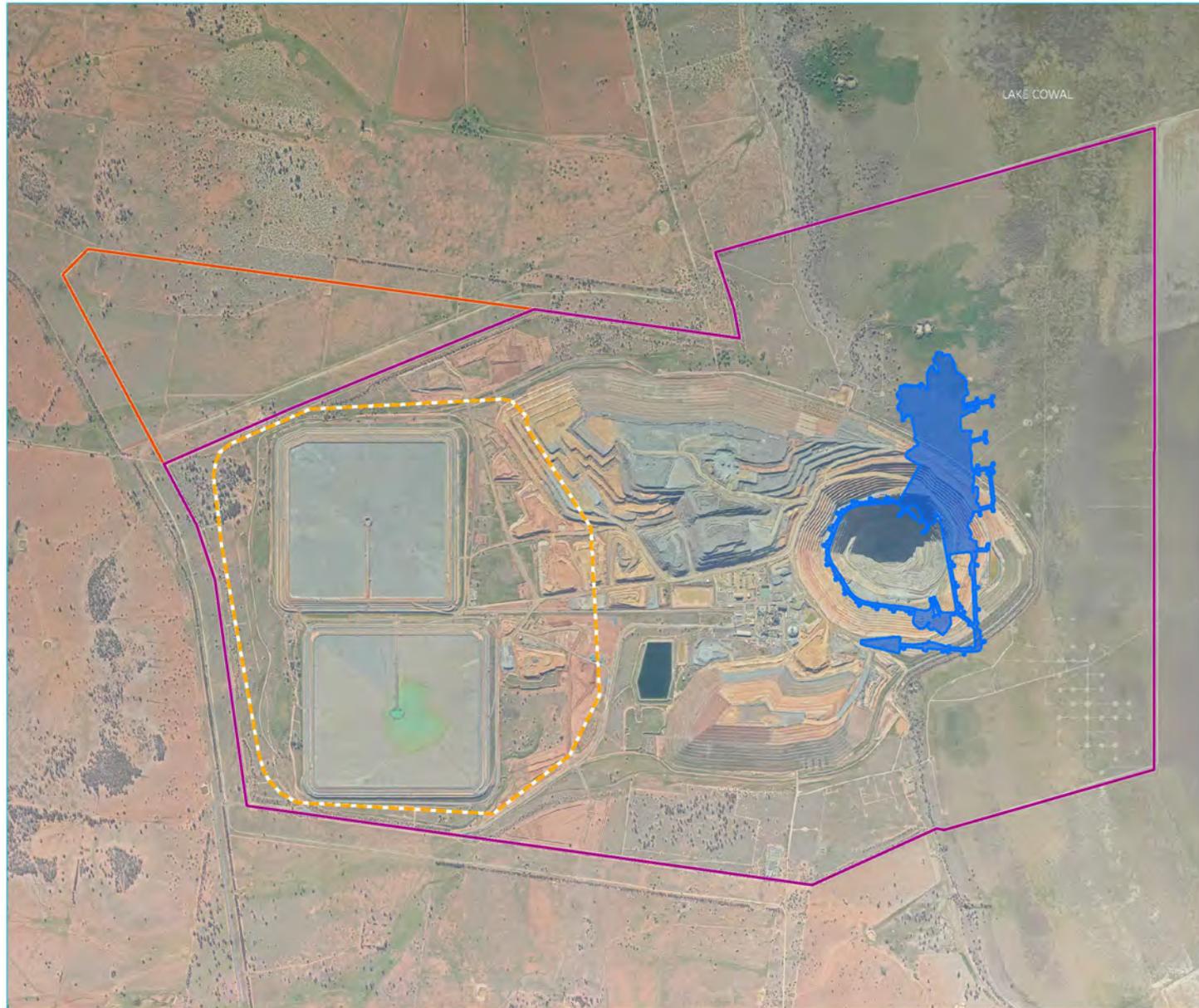
Site access road

Power supply and water supply sources

UNDERGROUND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (SSD)

- Extension of current Mining Operations
- No additional surface disturbance outside of previously approved footprint
- Environmentally low impact development
- Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation not a controlled action
- Maiden Underground Ore Reserve of 804koz
- Mining between ~1.5 to ~2.0 Mtpa of ore
- Ongoing environmental management and assessments to improve handling, emissions and water management
- Sub level open stoping - mining method chosen as it allows for maximum resource recovery from the ore body
- Stopes to be backfilled with pastefill
- Diesel fleet to conduct material handling
- Investigating alternative haulage systems

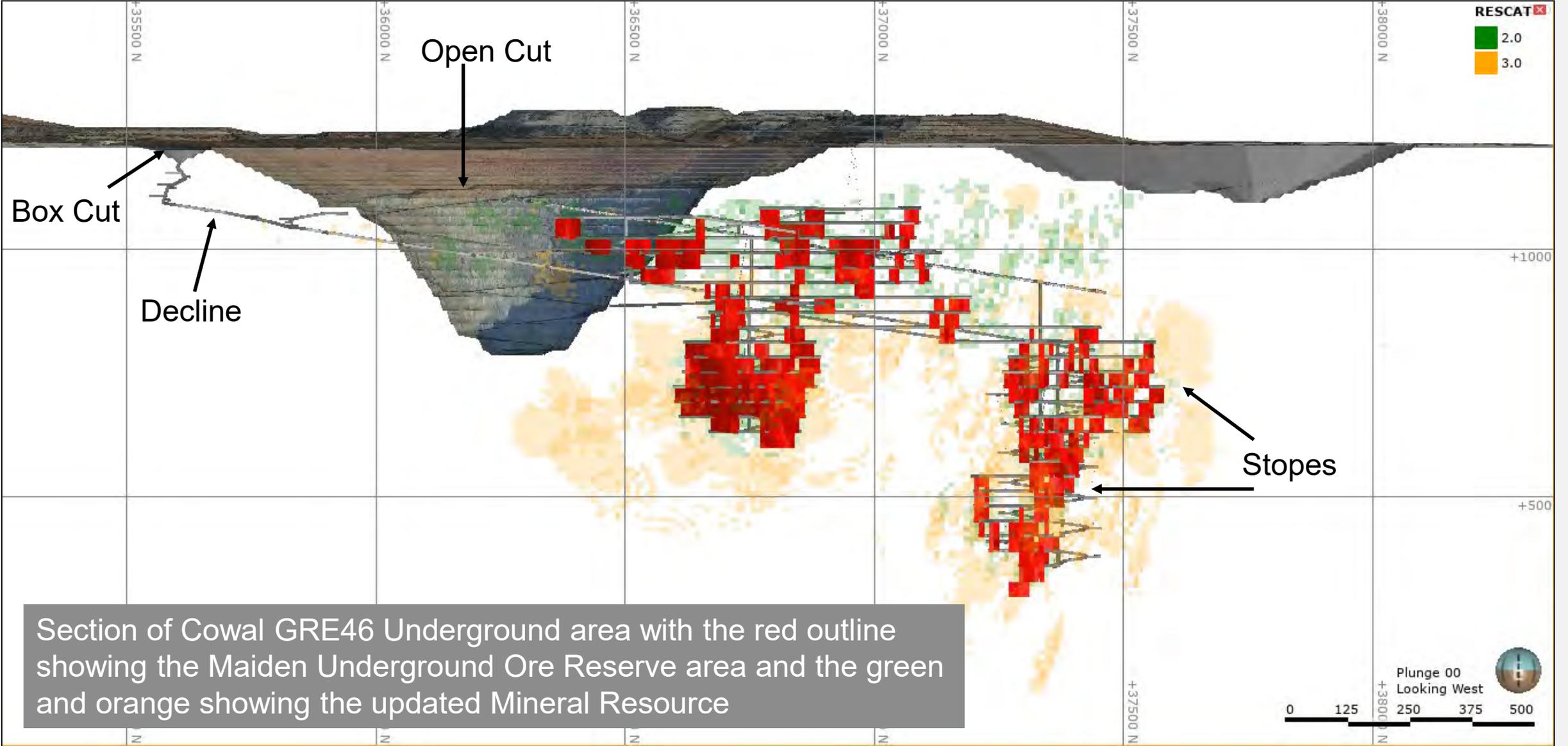




KEY

- Mining lease (ML1535)
- Mining lease (ML1791)
- Indicative integrated waste landform perimeter
- Proposed underground development





Section of Cowal GRE46 Underground area with the red outline showing the Maiden Underground Ore Reserve area and the green and orange showing the updated Mineral Resource



DA14/98 Modification 16 – what is proposed?

- Minimal environmental impact by utilising existing footprint
 - 1 metre vertical lift to the Integrated Waste Landform (IWL) - leveraging unique design features managing multiple streams of waste in the construction and operation
- Mine Infrastructure Area being optimized to be integrated with existing operations including:
 - Processing plant
 - Primary crushing circuit for underground ore
 - Tailings desliming circuit
 - Surface Infrastructure
 - Heavy Vehicle/Light Vehicle workshop
 - Administration building/ change houses

DISCUSSION SESSION

- Facilitated discussion



TIMING & PLANNING APPROVALS

- EIS studies - May – September 2020
- EIS documents finalised – September 2020
- EIS lodged with DPIE Q4 2020
- Public Exhibition late 2020
- Response to submissions and Submission report Early 2021
- Continued community engagement

CGO develops initial concept design options for the project and undertakes early consultation with the community and stakeholder agencies.

DPIE issues Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the preparation of an EIS for the proposal.

**WE ARE
HERE ▶**

CGO prepares an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the SEARs.

CGO will undertake consultation with the community prior to submitting the EIS, to help inform the project and provide opportunities for feedback.

The EIS and the State Significant Development (SSD) application are submitted to DPIE to be placed on public exhibition for at least 28 days. During this time, the community has the opportunity to write a submission and have their say.

After Exhibition, the Department will publish all submissions received and Evolution Mining will prepare a Response to Submissions Report to respond to any issues raised.

The Consent Authority will evaluate and provide a determination of the SSD.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT TECHNICAL STUDIES

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): provides information on the environmental impacts and mitigation measures

Noise and blasting

- Modelling shows that noise from the project will not exceed the current strict noise levels which apply at the mine.
- Blasts will be undertaken underground and are very small, and will not impact nearby land or residences.

Air quality and GHG

- The model includes concurrent operation of both open cut and underground mines.
- As an underground mining development, the air quality impacts from the project will be minimal, and will not exceed strict air quality limits in place at the mine.

Traffic

- CGO-related traffic has been assessed and found to have adequate capacity for the anticipated underground-related traffic during both construction and operations in all weathers.

Biodiversity

- No impact to mater Commonwealth Matters of National Environmental Significance.
- No additional surface disturbance outside what has previously approved.

Subsidence

- The potential risk of subsidence has been assessed as 'Negligible'.
- It was quantified as approximately 15 mm of subsidence and 25 mm of upsidence (uplift).

EIS TECHNICAL STUDIES

Groundwater

- There will not be any additional impacts from the project to water users in the region.

Surface water

- Impacts to surface water associated with the construction and operation of the underground are regarded as a Low risk.

Geochemistry

- The strict controls already in place at the mine to manage waste rock will continue to apply to the waste rock produced from the underground project – with minimal risk to the environment.

Rehabilitation and closure

- The planned closure of the mine once underground mining finishes is very similar to the existing approved closure scenario of creating safe, stable and non-polluting landforms.
- Underground access points will be sealed, stopes will be progressively backfilled.

Visual amenity

- A visual impact assessment study has considered the potential impacts on the viewsheds of local residences and access roads.
- The impacts to visual receptors is very low.

EIS TECHNICAL STUDIES

Aboriginal heritage

- Low risk associated with further adverse impacts to Aboriginal heritage cultural values (including currently unknown sites) as there is no additional disturbance outside of currently approved areas.

Historical heritage

- Low risk associated with further adverse impacts to Historical heritage cultural values (including currently unknown sites) as there is no additional disturbance outside of currently approved areas.

Waste management

- The wastes that will be produced on site during the construction and operational phases of the underground will be very similar to those produced in the past or that continue to be produced by current CGO operations.

Social

- Social impacts assessed relate to the incoming specialised workforce, the expected population change in West Wyalong and the workforce accommodation strategy.
- Community benefits and partnership opportunities have also been explored as increased opportunities exist through the extended life of mine.

Economics

- The project will result in a range economic benefits. It will create jobs for the region and contribute significantly to the national, State and regional economies through the payment of royalties and taxes.

DISCUSSION SESSION

- Facilitated discussion



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

- Sustained growth of a cornerstone operation within the region
- Providing opportunities to upskill the local workforce by offering specialist underground positions
- Attracting new employees to the region
 - Professional Positions
 - Trade Positions
 - Apprenticeships/ Traineeships
 - Operator Positions
- Continued investment in the region through shared value programs, ongoing partnership development and direct sponsorships and donations building on community values



EMPLOYMENT

- Construction of the underground infrastructure is estimated to take between 18 and 24 months
- Estimated ~200 full time equivalent jobs created at peak of construction
- With our proposed operating model, when fully operational:
 - approximately 160 new jobs will be created
 - Taking the total site workforce to approximately 660 full time employees



EMPLOYMENT

- Evolution's goal is to have a workforce that resides in communities near the mine
- The project will need the right people with the right skills to safely operate the mine
- Unfortunately, people with these skill sets are not currently available in the necessary numbers in communities that service the mine
- Whilst we recruit and upskill a local workforce, it will be necessary during the construction and initial set up and operation of the mine, to bring workers with the required underground mining skills and experience to the region
- This will require some form of fly in, fly out or drive in, drive out workforce that will require accommodation in West Wyalong

ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

- Evolution recognizes there is limited available housing stock in and around West Wyalong and are seeking an accommodation solution that does not add further availability pressure or cause housing or rental increases that would adversely impact the local community
- We are currently investigating options to accommodate up to ~200 people during construction and ~160 people during initial mining operations
- Accommodation options must balance the needs of CGO, the community and the workforce
- Our base case scenario is to construct an accommodation village in West Wyalong where workers can access services of the local enterprises and participate in the community, particularly for the construction period
- Other cost-effective solutions that are attractive to employees and community will also be considered

DISCUSSION SESSION

- Facilitated discussion



HAVE YOUR SAY

- website: evolutionmining.com.au/cowal/
- email: cgo.community@evolutionmining.com
- call: 02 6975 3454

- Online community information sessions
- Project website
- Online and hard copy survey
- Community information phone line
- Project email address

Evolution

MINING

