

# COWAL GOLD OPERATIONS COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2019-2020

## Cowal Gold Operations Community Environmental Monitoring & Consultative Committee

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	Cowal Gold Operations	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	June 2019 to March 2020
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	<b>Lisa Andrews</b>	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	<b>Danielle Wallace</b>

### 1. Executive Summary

The Cowal Gold Operations is located approximately 38 kilometres north-east of West Wyalong in New South Wales (NSW), owned and operated by Evolution Mining (Cowal) Pty Limited.

The project was originally approved in 1999 and mining operations commenced in April 2005. Several companies have owned the mine (Rio Tinto, Homestake Australia, Barrick and now Evolution).

The CEMCC is the oldest community consultative committee in New South Wales, operating originally under its own charter with strict environmental monitoring requirements. The CEMCC resolved to operate under the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Developments, when they were introduced in November 2018.

The project is located within three local government areas, and therefore has a large membership, comprising of:

- Four local community representatives (including a representative from the Lake Cowal Land Owners group)
- One Bland Shire Council delegate
- One Parkes Shire Council delegate
- One Forbes Shire Council delegate (and alternate)
- An Independent Scientist
- Stakeholder Group – Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation
- Three company representatives; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

The meetings are held quarterly, in March, June, August and December.

Attendees receive a comprehensive presentation from the proponent, which includes updates on the modification applications, proposed expansion project (underground) and exploration decline. Topics of discussion during the reporting period included:

- Environmental Monitoring Results (air quality, blasting, surface water, lake water, ground water, operational noise, fauna & flora)
- Environmental Management Plan updates
- Fauna Incidents (deaths, etc)
- Lake Cowal levels
- Rehabilitation
- Reportable Incidents
- Complaints Report
- Bush Fire Management
- Sponsorship and donations; and

- Community Engagement.

The CCC meets in alternate locations (West Wyalong, Forbes, Condobolin & on site at Lake Cowal) to cover the three local government areas and is an effective communication forum between the community, the Councils and the company. It functions well and accordingly, fulfils its objectives under the Department's guidelines.

## 2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- The committee met in March, June, August & December 2019 and March 2020.
- Attendance at the meetings is high, with the occasional apology due to competing commitments.
- There were no joint CCC's held.

## 3. Key issues

Trending topics of committee discussion can be summarised as:

Issue	Actions Taken	Outcome
<b>Proposed Underground Development</b>	Consultants attended the June 2019 meeting and provided a briefing on the proposed underground development application and summary of the approval pathway. A workshop was also undertaken to develop engagement strategies and seek opinions from committee members.	Ongoing updates and presentations will be provided at future CEMCC meetings, including specialist assessment reports.
<b>Modification 14 &amp; GRE46 Exploration Decline</b>	The proponent will provide details of the status regarding secondary approvals associated with the recently approved Mod 14, as well as providing updates on the progress of GRE46.	Ongoing.
<b>Bush Fire Management</b>	With the prolonged dry weather, bush fire management is always a topic of concern for the community.	Ongoing updates provided at CEMCC meetings.
<b>Rehabilitation Work</b>	Presentation on the Rehabilitation Works Management Plan.	Ongoing updates provided at CEMCC meetings.

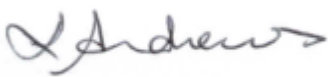
#### 4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2020 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- A site inspection in September 2020.
- Continued updates on environmental monitoring and results.
- Continued updates on the approved modification (14) and obtaining relevant government agency approvals.
- Continued updates on the Exploration Decline and proposed underground operations development application.
- Continued updates on Community Engagement & Support Programs.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed.

CCC minutes and presentations are available on the project website.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	20 April 2020