

COWAL GOLD OPERATIONS COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

Cowal Gold Operations Community Environmental Monitoring & Consultative Committee

CCC / Project Name:	Cowal Gold Operations	Reporting Period:	March 2021 to March 2022
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	Renee Pettit

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 included updates on the modification applications, proposed expansion project (underground) and exploration decline. This SSD-10367 was approved on 30/9/21 with minimal objections.

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, which includes a site inspection) 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 2021 and March 2022.
- 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
Modification for Underground Development	CCC engaged during all stages of the assessment process.	Application approved on 30/9/21 subject to conditions.
Rehabilitation Work	Presentation on the Rehabilitation Works Management Plan.	Ongoing updates provided at CEMCC meetings.
Lake Cowal Water Bird Monitoring Survey	Members are very interested in the results of an ongoing water bird survey undertaken by Peter Gell.	Presentation proposed for the December 2022 meeting.
Vehicles/people trespassing on neighbouring private properties	It has been determined and agreed that these vehicles are not mine related and members of the public are accessing private property illegally.	Resident to contact Bland Shire Council for signage to be erected.
Independent Environmental Audit	The IEA has been commissioned.	CCC members encouraged to provide any issues of interest to Chair for forwarding on to consultant.
Proposed application for Open Pit Continuation Project	Consultant attended March 2022 meeting and provided a briefing of CEMCC members. Newsletter has been distributed to the broader community as part of the consultation process.	Members to receive ongoing updates at future meetings.

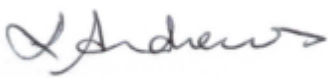
4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2022 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- A site inspection in September 2022.
- 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.
- Engagement with the community regarding the proposed Open Pit Continuation application to DPE, including Social Impact Assessment.
- 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:	11 April 2022