

Northparkes Community Consultative Annual Report 2023

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Evolution Mining Northparkes Operations	Reporting Period:	January – December 2023
Independent Chairperson:	David Johnson	Proponent Contact:	

1. Executive Summary & History

Evolution Mining Northparkes Operations (Northparkes) is a copper-gold mine located 27 kilometres north-west of the town of Parkes in central west New South Wales, Australia. The Northparkes business continues to run under a joint venture arrangement with 80% interest with Evolution Mining (Northparkes) Pty Ltd and the remaining 20% share owned by the Sumitomo Group.

The majority of Northparkes employees reside in the Parkes Shire, which has a population of approximately 15,000 residents. Parkes Shire is a diverse municipality centred on the town of Parkes. The largest industry is the retail industry, closely followed by the agricultural industry.

North Mining Limited originally received development consent for Northparkes operations in 1992, 15 years after the first onsite resource discovery. This approval was based on open cut mining of E22 and E27 and underground mining of E26 within the 'Mining Reserve' of 64.1 million tonnes (Mt).

Underground block cave mining commenced at Northparkes in October 1993 with the construction of the E26 block cave mine through the granting of development consent DA504/90. Northparkes commissioned its second block cave mine, E26 Lift 2 in 2004. In 2008, North Mining Limited commissioned an extension to the second block cave mine, E26 Lift 2 North (E26 Lift 2N). Mining operations at Northparkes focus on the extraction of a range of ore bodies based on a set of target mineral concentration limits.

Open cut mining commenced with the E27 pit in December 1993 and the E22 pit in January 1994. The gold-enriched oxide ore was processed through a separate carbon-in-pulp (CIP) gold circuit, including the use of cyanide for gold extraction, prior to the construction of the copper-gold sulphide processing circuits in 1995. Ore was then stockpiled for blending with E26 underground material. Open cut mining ceased in October 2010 with the completion of the E22 open cut campaign. The CIP processing plant has been decommissioned from site, with cyanide no longer used in process circuits on site.

In February 2007, the NSW Minister for Planning granted approval for the ongoing operation of the previously approved mining operations and facilities and the extension of underground block cave mining into the E48 ore body. This project was known as the E48 Project. After approval in 2007, North Mining Limited commenced construction of E48 Lift 1, its third major block cave mine. Initial production of E48 Lift 1 began in 2010 and forms part of the approved underground mining operations in conjunction with E26 Lift 2 and E26 Lift 2N.

In October 2009, approval was granted for two modifications for the construction of the Estcourt Tailings Storage Facility (TSF), a mine and mill upgrade to increase processing up to 8.5Mtpa and extension of mine life until 2025. Section 75W modification two (Mod 2) provided for the development of a 1200m² warehouse within the approved mine infrastructure area.

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In 2012 North Mining Limited was granted approval for development of a block cave knowledge centre from Parkes Shire Council (PSC).

In 2013, CMOC Group Limited acquired Northparkes from Rio Tinto.

In July 2014, Development Consent 11_0060 was granted for the Northparkes Extension Project (the Project). This Consent surrendered the Project Approval PA06_0026 and DA11092 in accordance with section 104A of the EP&A Act. In 2019, the Consent was gazetted as a State Significant Development (SSD) under section 4 of the EP&A Act. Northparkes continues to undertake modifications to DC 11_0060 as operations develop (Section 3.2.1).

Evolution Mining acquired Northparkes in December 2023.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months


- Two (2) meetings were held during 2023, in March and July
- Attendance at both meetings was significant with several community members and Northparkes representatives in attendance. Representatives from both Parkes and Forbes Councils are regular attendees and contributors to the CCC.
- There were no site visits held during 2023. There is a site visit planned for the September 2024 meeting.
- At each meeting a business update was provided including safety and production performance, new modifications to approvals, project updates and environmental performance and community updates.

3. Key issues

There were no significant issues raised during the year. The mine operates with few complaints and good community support.

4. Focus for next 12 months

- The first meeting for 2024 was held on Monday 4 March.
- A site visit is planned for the next meeting to update the committee on the Open Pit operations and to get an overview of site operations for those interested.
- There are no emerging issues at this time; future development proposals will be presented for discussion.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	3 May 2024