

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/