

Cowal Update

APRIL 2021 EDITION

Evolution is the owner and operator of the Cowal Gold Operation, an open cut gold mine at Lake Cowal, 38 kilometres from West Wyalong. Evolution has sought approval from the NSW Government for underground mining and supporting infrastructure to help extend the life of the operation and will soon be seeking additional accommodation for its workforce in West Wyalong.

Accommodation Village Update

Construction of the underground mine and its infrastructure will need around 160 construction workers for approximately 18 months. Later, during operation of the underground mine, a workforce of around 230 workers will be needed. Some of these workers are expected to move here from outside of the region.

Finding appropriate local accommodation for the construction and operational workers is of paramount importance and various options have been investigated.

Currently, around 75% of the workforce at the operation live in the towns around the mine and Evolution remains committed to encouraging its workforce to settle locally. However, for the underground workforce (which requires a highly specialised skillset), we recognise that this may take time to fully achieve. Nevertheless, Evolution intends to progressively develop a locally based workforce to operate the underground mine.



Artist Impression of concept layout looking north-east

Evolution's accommodation strategy

Finding suitable accommodation for the construction workforce and operational workforce in West Wyalong is a priority which Evolution is addressing in two ways.

In the first instance, Evolution will continue to partner with West Wyalong hotel operators to accommodate the construction workforce. This will continue the longstanding partnership Evolution has with local providers while allowing a medium term solution for the operational workforce to be developed.

The medium term accommodation solution

will be a purpose-built accommodation village. The preferred site for the village is on Boundary Street in West Wyalong, on land owned by the West Wyalong Local Aboriginal Land Council. This is the same site which was used for the original Barrick Gold accommodation village, that operated between 2004 and 2006.

The village is being designed to house 180 people. The village site is located within walking distance of West Wyalong and all the services the town offers.

Timing and Staging

The start of construction of the village is dependent on the grant of development consent for underground mining. We estimate that construction will begin in late 2021 or early 2022, and the village should be operational in 2022.

The village will be constructed in stages, with the northern section, including the amenities and services buildings installed first, then the western accommodation and finally the southern accommodation. The village will have two types of accommodation for each

of the construction and operational workforces and will also include disability-accessible accommodation. It is expected that the village will be fully operational within eight months of the commencement of construction, with further amenities potentially constructed in later stages.

General enquiries may be addressed to the Social Responsibility Team:

community.cowal@evolutionmining.com.au | 02 6975 4661 | Cowal Gold Mine, PO Box 210, West Wyalong, NSW 2671



Environmentally sustainable design

The village is being designed to be harmonious with the surrounding streets. Sustainable design principles, such as passive solar design techniques, rooftop solar panels and rainwater tanks to capture water for re-use on-site, will be incorporated into the village. Recycling and composting services will also be provided for the site.

The village site takes advantage of services and an existing loop road already in place. This reduces the amount of earthworks required to develop the village.

We will ensure that existing vegetation, especially the larger trees on site, will be retained wherever possible, and the site will be landscaped with native species to create a pleasant, shady environment to enhance the amenity of the local area.

Evolution will continue to transport the majority of its workforce to and from Cowal Gold Operation by bus. This will minimise traffic in the local streets.

Government approval process

Approval to develop the village is required from Bland Shire Council under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Evolution will submit a Development Application (DA) and accompanying

Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) to Council in the coming months.

The SEE will include technical assessments for noise and vibration, air quality, biodiversity and heritage impacts, as well as

bushfire risk so that Council can make an informed decision on the application. Council will place the SEE on exhibition to give the local community the opportunity to view the documents and make comment.

Before the DA is lodged, we are consulting with local residents, hotel accommodation providers and the wider community, so that information on the village is well known and that potential issues can be considered.

Site management

Evolution's preference is for a local sub-contractor to manage the day-to-day operations of the village.

Evolution is currently looking to select an experienced and capable operator which can support the local economy and create local jobs for the community.

How can I find out more information?

Evolution's dedicated Social Responsibility Team is available to answer any questions you may have and provide information about the proposed accommodation village. Here are the ways that you can contact us:

Email: community.cowal@evolutionmining.com.au

Telephone: 02 6975 4759

Website: www.evolution.com.au/cowal

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