Feedback sought on gold mine proposals in western NSW

The public is being invited to comment on environmental assessments for two gold mine proposals at Tomingley and Nymagee in western NSW, which are being publicly exhibited by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

The first proposal for the development and operation of the Tomingley Gold Project, near Tomingley, approximately 53km south-west of Dubbo, includes:
- Constructing, operating, and rehabilitating an open cut gold mine and associated infrastructure;
- Extracting and processing up to 1 million tonnes of gold ore per year for up to nine years; and
- Transporting the processed ore from the site via road.

The second proposal for the development and operation of the Hera Gold Project, near Nymagee approximately 80km south of Cobar, includes:
- Constructing, operating, and rehabilitating an underground mine and associated infrastructure;
- Extracting and processing up to 350,000 tonnes of gold and base metals ore per year for between five and seven years; and
- Transporting the processed ore from the site via road.

The environmental assessments for both proposals are on public exhibition from Thursday, 17 November until Monday, 19 December 2011. Interested members of the public are encouraged to lodge a submission providing feedback during this time.

Submissions received during the public exhibition period, along with the proponents’ response to submissions documents, will be made available on the department’s website. The submissions and proponent’s responses will be carefully considered as part of the department’s assessment of each project.

The department required the proponents for each proposal to specifically address issues including impacts on biodiversity, traffic, waste, rehabilitation and noise in their assessments.

The environmental assessments for the projects can be viewed during business hours at:
- Department of Planning and Infrastructure – Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- Nature Conservation Council – Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown;
- Narromine Shire Council – 124 Dandaloo Street, Narromine (for Tomingley Gold Project);
- Cobar Shire Council – 36 Linsley Street, Cobar (for Hera Gold Project).
All relevant project documents are also publicly available on the department’s website, and can be accessed by visiting [http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au) and following the links to the ‘On Exhibition’ page.

Submissions can be:
- Lodged online at [http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au) (then search for the project);
- Emailed to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au;
- Faxed to (02) 9228 6466; or
- Posted to Mining and Industries Projects, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001;

**Media contact: Brendan Berecry on (02) 9228 6257**

NOTE: The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is issuing this media release to encourage the community to take part in the planning process. However, it is the role of the proponent (either through its documents published on our website or otherwise) to provide further specific details about the proposal.