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Gold mine approved in central western NSW

A new \$65 million gold mine in central western NSW, which will extract up to 1.5 million tonnes of gold ore each year, has been approved by the NSW Government.

The Tomingley Gold Project, approximately 50 kilometres south-west of Dubbo, was approved by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure after careful assessment.

The Alkane Resources Ltd project comprises three open cut pits and one underground mine, as well as supporting infrastructure including a 46 kilometre water supply pipeline between Narromine and Tomingley, an on-site electricity substation and a haulage road underpass beneath the Newell Highway.

The approved project also includes an ore processing plant, three waste rock emplacements, a residue storage facility and surface water management structures.

“The project is expected to generate up to 100 jobs during the construction of the mine and up to 90 ongoing jobs over the 10-year life of the mine,” the department’s Deputy Director-General Richard Pearson said.

“The project was publicly exhibited last year and attracted just eight submissions, with no public objections.

“All the issues raised in the submissions have been addressed through the assessment process including surface and groundwater impacts, management of hazardous materials, ecological impacts, traffic impacts, air quality and noise.”

The small number of submissions meant the project could be determined by the department under delegation.

The department has imposed 84 conditions to manage the impact of the project including requirements for the proponent to:

- Manage noise, blasting, air quality and visual impacts, including limiting the hours of blasting to 9am to 5pm on Monday to Saturday, constructing noise/ visual barriers and implementing a comprehensive monitoring program;
- Enter into a planning agreement with Narromine Shire Council for upgrades to Tomingley West Road, as well as contributions for road maintenance, a community fund and environmental management;
- Implement a water management plan including continued groundwater monitoring to mitigate and manage any impacts;
- Develop and implement a biodiversity offset to ensure the project maintains the biodiversity values of the region and offsets the removal of native vegetation;
- Rehabilitate the site and investigate opportunities to backfill mine voids, particularly the Wyoming Three void; and
- Monitor and regularly report on its environmental performance.

The department’s assessment report and conditions of approval are available on the website at <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au>

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