Local jobs secured after Cowal Gold Mine extension approved

Local jobs at the Cowal Gold Mine near West Wyalong in the state’s Central West have been secured after the Department of Planning and Environment approved a modification application to increase production and extend the life of the mine for an extra eight years.

The modification will deepen the existing open cut pit to access additional gold resources. There will be no additional development above ground at the mine site as a result of this modification. Conditions managing water use at the existing site and separating the mine from surrounding water resources, including Lake Cowal, remain the same.

Clay Preshaw, Director of Resource Assessments, said the Department considers all applications on their merits under planning legislation and clear NSW Government policies.

“Currently, the mine employs 385 people and stimulates economic activity in the local and regional economy,” Mr Preshaw said.

“These jobs and economic advantages are now secured with the approval of the modification application, which will see the existing mine increase its total extraction from 3.8 to 5.5 million ounces of gold over an extra eight years until 2032.

“Updates to the existing open cut pit, mine waste storage facilities and the on-site processing plant will also take place as a result of the approval.

“The Department has also strengthened the noise conditions to provide additional safeguards for the local community.

Evolution Mining’s application was publicly exhibited by the Department between November and December to encourage community feedback. All 65 public submissions received by the Department were in support of extending the mine and its related economic benefits for the local area.

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