

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Cowal Gold Project	Reporting Period:	2024 (calendar year)
Independent Chairperson:	David Ross	Proponent Contact:	Renee Pettit Greg Coase

1. Executive Summary

The Cowal Gold Operations is located approximately 38 kilometres north-east of West Wyalong and is owned and operated by Evolution Mining (Cowal) Pty Limited. The project was originally approved in 1999 and mining operations commenced in April 2005.

The Cowal Environmental Monitoring and Consultative Committee (CEMCC) is the oldest community consultative committee in New South Wales, operating originally under its own charter with strict environmental monitoring requirements. The CEMCC resolved to operate under the Department of Planning's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Developments, when they were introduced in November 2016 and continues to operate under the revised guidelines, which were introduced in June 2023.

The project is located within three local government areas, and therefore, the committee has a healthy membership, comprising of:

- Four local community representatives;
- One Bland Shire Council delegate
- One Parkes Shire Council delegate;
- One Forbes Shire Council delegate (and alternate);
- Stakeholder Group – Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation;
- Two company representatives; and
- The independent chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

Special mention should be made of the long-standing chair of the committee, Lisa Andrews, who resigned after many years contributing to the committee. Lisa is to be sincerely thanked for her time.

The committee held four meetings on a quarterly basis in 2024. With the introduction of a new environmental superintendent at the mine as well as a new independent chairman, there was some time taken to bed down some additions to meetings.

However, members received a presentation from one of Evolution's geologists on the progress of the mine's geological explorations. In addition, more time was allocated to members having the opportunity for more group discussions.

3. Key issues

While compliance with environmental legislation as well as the mine's community investment efforts remained as the "core" of the committee's discussions, the key issues for the Committee in 2024 were:

- The Open Pit Continuation project
- Geological exploration updates
- Shared value project discussions
- Dust mitigation at tailings storage facilities
- Evolution's environmental practices

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Open Pit Continuation (OPC)	Members were updated throughout the application process on the progress made.	Keep the CEMCC informed of OPC works now that approval has been given.
Geological Exploration Updates	Updates were provided to committee members on Evolution's exploration efforts. Members of the mine's geology team also presented.	Keep the CEMCC informed of the progress of the mine's exploration activities.
Shared Value Projects	Members were not only provided with updates on Evolution's community investment projects, but also discussions on what the mine seeks to fund with respect to the larger Shared Value Projects.	There appears to be interest within the CEMCC to hold more detailed discussions on what Shared Value Projects could look like.
Dust Mitigation	Through consultation with adjacent landholders, the mine has been making changes to how it manages dust levels on the tailings storage facilities.	It is anticipated that further updates will be provided to members in 2025 about the effectiveness of the dust mitigation efforts, seeking feedback from members about the effectiveness of the changes.
Evolution's Sustainability Practices	Members were given a presentation on the mine's practices and how it translates into principles that are integrated through the mine's operations.	As the presentation was well received, this may result in an annual presentation being given on the subject.

4. Focus for next 12 months


The focus for the next 12 months for the CEMCC will entail:

- An open-ended invitation for committee members to determine if any relevant specialists should present at a meeting (eg dust mitigation or water management)
- A site inspection will take place at the last committee meeting of 2025
- The third meeting of the year will devote much time to exploring possible shared value projects
- Continued updates on environmental monitoring and compliance
- Continued updates on Open Pit Continuation works
- Continued updates on the mine's community investment program.

Review of Effectiveness of the CEMCC

In accordance with the revised CCC guidelines, it is deemed that the CEMCC operates effectively. The proponent provides comprehensive presentations, ongoing notifications, timely responses to requests and completion of action items. Representatives from the mine are keen to make changes or additions to the core presentations in order to engage committee members.

There have been no concerns raised by CEMCC members.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	4 th March, 2025