

MINUTES OF MEETING
Cowal Gold Operations
Community Environmental Monitoring
and Consultative Committee (CEMCC)

Date: Wednesday 6 March 2024
Time: 9.00am, Lake Cowal Conservation Centre

Attendees:

Independent Chairperson: Lisa Andrews (LA)
Evolution: Renee Pettit (RP) & Greg Coase (GC).
Community Members: Lucy Buttenshaw (LB), Angus Stitt (AS) & Kate Dean (KD)*
Forbes Shire Council: Cr Brian Mattiske (BM)
Bland Shire Council: Cr Elizabeth McGlynn (EM)
Lachlan Shire Council: Cr Dennis Brady (DB)

Apologies:

Bruce Dent (BD), Grace Derrick (GD), Ally Coe (AC), Vicki Swadling (VS), Nicole Smith (NS) Cr Chris Roylance (CR).

**Attended meeting remotely, however, left at 9.42am due to connection disruptions.*

ITEM	ACTION						
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Independent Chair, LA, opened the meeting at 9.10am and welcomed all in attendance. LA introduced Greg Coase (Manager Sustainability) and asked him to provide some background on his career to the CEMCC. Acknowledgment of Country.</p>	<p>LA apologised for late start due to technical issues with online connection.</p> <p>GC provided a comprehensive summary of his mining and personal background.</p>						
<p>2. Declaration of Interest</p> <p>LA advised there were no changes to previous declarations by CEMCC members, nor to hers; Independent Chair of the CEMCC, appointed by the Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning and receives payment via a Trust established by the Bland Shire Council.</p>	<p>LA distributed hard copies of the revised governance forms for members' completion.</p>						
<p>3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes.</p> <p>The last meeting of the CEMCC was held on 29 November 2023 at the Forbes Shire Council Chambers. The minutes were finalised and sent to members with the presentation on 22 December 2023. There were 2 Action Items from that meeting:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">ITEM</th> <th style="text-align: center;">ISSUE</th> <th style="text-align: center;">RESPONSIBILITY</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td>EVN to notify LA when response to submission is lodged. RTS lodged with DPHI at the end of January 2024.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">EVN</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY	3	EVN to notify LA when response to submission is lodged. RTS lodged with DPHI at the end of January 2024.	EVN	<p>Link to RTS in Major Projects Portal provided on last page of minutes.</p>
ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY					
3	EVN to notify LA when response to submission is lodged. RTS lodged with DPHI at the end of January 2024.	EVN					

4	IA to send copy of CEMCC slide pack to LA for distribution to CEMCC members. Complete –sent with the finalized minutes on 22/12/23	IA/LA	
No other Business Arising from the previous minutes.			
4. Correspondence (as emailed with the meeting notice on 21 February 2024) with one additional item on 4/3/24: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15/12/23 - Email to members with the draft minutes for review/comment. • 18/12/23 – Email from DB with completed governance forms. Acknowledged. • 22/12/23 – Email to members with finalised minutes. • 5/2/24 – Email to members with Cowal Update Newsletter. • 21/2/24 – Email members with Meeting Notice & Agenda for this meeting. • 4/3/24 – Email to members with reminder for this meeting. 			
5. Reports (See presentation for summary, photographs and monitoring graphs) <p>GC provided a detailed account of Cowal Gold Operations (CGO's) Environment Department's activities over the last quarter and a status of the underground project along with an update of the OPC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Legal Obligations – no change ○ Upcoming Assurance Audits: Recertification in June for ISO14001, which will require an accredited auditor to attend site for 2 weeks. ○ Environmental Incidents: All fauna deaths associated with misadventure. ○ Air Quality: Dust exertion event required significant expenditure to mitigate dust with the application of a polymer suppressant. LB enquired whether this was still permeable. GC confirm that it was. Some land owners requested EVN to undertake testing of their water tanks to confirm that the dust from the roofs hadn't caused any issues. GC confirmed that there were no trace elements found and was even able to assist land owners with providing information about the health of their tank water. ○ Blasting & Vibration: 1 exceedence – no complaints. ○ Operational Noise: All within limits – no exceedances. ○ Rainfall: Wet December and January slowed down production. 			<p>Slide 4</p> <p>Slide 5</p> <p>Slide 6</p> <p>Slide 7</p> <p>Slide 8</p> <p>Slide 9</p> <p>Slide 10</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Surface Water & Lake Water: Lake Water currently 1.5m deep. ○ Groundwater: No complaints. LM enquired how the saline is disposed of. GC advised that it is processed in the Water Treatment Plant, however cannot be put back into the river due to the legislation restrictions. BM asked if the aquafer was shallow or deep. GB responded that it was shallow. ○ Fauna & Flora ○ Cyanide ○ Open Cut Continuation Project Update: RTS has been submitted. ○ CGO Exploration Update: LM asked about the results. GC advised that data is still being assessed. DB enquired whether other minerals have been found. GC responded that silver and other small trace elements are usually detected. <p>RP provided details of community complaints and the activities and support undertaken by the Cowal Community and External Relations team in the previous quarter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Relations (Complaints, Sponsorships, Donations, Scholarships & Employee Achievements): 1 complaint received during last quarter from local business owner regarding a suspected EVN employee vehicle parking outside their shop. Cowal Newsletter was being launched today, showcasing 5 female leaders and their journeys in their careers. Two finalists in the NSW Women in Mining Awards. BM enquired on the percentage of female to male ratio. GC responded that it is currently around 12-19%. Further commenting that EVN is undertaking education program to encourage a diverse range of people to enter the mining industry. 	<p>Slide 11</p> <p>Slide 12</p> <p>Slide 13</p> <p>Slide 14</p> <p>Slide 15</p> <p>Slide 16 - 17</p> <p>Slide 18 – 19 Action: Provide link to Major Projects Portal for RTS.</p> <p>Slides 20 – 25</p> <p>RP explained process of dealing with such issues.</p> <p>Action: send newsletter to CEMCC members.</p> <p>Action: RP to advised outcome of award ceremony.</p>
<p>6. General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GC asked members if there was anything in particular that they wished to be informed of from EVN at these meetings. ○ LM stated that she would like to see an article placed in the newspaper following the quarterly CEMCC with a summary of the meeting. LA agreed that it was a good opportunity for EVN to promote its contributions to the broader communities and could include follow-up stories on how groups have benefited from sponsorships/donations. Discussions about information provided in the public forum needing to be cleared by Corporate. ○ All acknowledged that this was a good idea. 	<p>EVN to take suggestion on notice.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AS suggested that any article in the newspaper include information that details are available on the company website. ○ LM commented that the information in today's presentation on "diversity" was very interesting. ○ BM congratulated EVN on the presentation, stating that it was very open and transparent <p>LA announced that this was likely to be her last meeting as Independent Chairperson (IC) of this committee, providing an explanation. LA advised that DPHI have undertaken an Expression of Interest to other ICs in the Talent Pool and that the Assessment Team will appoint the replacement. LA thanked members for their support over the last 7 years and for their ongoing dedication and commitment to their communities..</p>	
<p>7. Meeting Schedule for 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wednesday 6th of March LCCG ● Wednesday 5th of June WCC ● Wednesday 4th of September FSC ● Wednesday 27th of November Evolution Town Office 	<p>LA advised that these dates may be subject to change when the new IC is appointed.</p>
<p>8. Meeting Closed – 10.12 am with LA thanking all for their attendance and contribution.</p>	

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Send link to RTS in Major Project Portal Complete – included below	LA
2	Send Newsletter to CEMCC Complete – sent 7/3/24	RP/LA
3	Provide results of NSW Women in Mining Awards Finalists	RP
4	EVN to consider newspaper articles on CEMCC and EVN activities	EVN

Link to RTS in major project portal:

[Cowal Gold Operations Open Pit Continuation | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-environment/cowal-gold-operations-open-pit-continuation-planning-portal)