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24 May 2016

Dear Mr Albury

**Re: Evolution Mining and the Draft 2016 Riverina-Murray Regional Plan**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft 2016 Riverina-Murray Regional Plan. We shall attend the meeting at West Wyalong on 8 June, at the invitation of Bland Shire Council and we have provided this correspondence as a basis for what we might hope to discuss in the meeting.

We understand that the Department of Environment and Planning is currently in the process of drafting Regional plans for NSW to address our future population's needs for housing, jobs, infrastructure and a healthy environment.

Evolution Mining has had the opportunity to review the draft Riverina Murray Regional Plan and we noted that there is no reference to our Cowal Gold Operation which is located in the Bland Shire within the Riverina Murray region.

Evolution Mining is a significant contributor to the Riverina Murray region and we write this submission to request that the plan be amended to include a reference to Evolution Mining in section 1.3.2 'Protect areas of mineral and energy, extractive and renewable energy potential'. The reference could perhaps be similar to the way in which Cadia Valley Gold Mine is highlighted on p23 of the draft Central West and Orana Regional Plan in relation to managing the region's mineral and energy resources sector in a sustainable way.

To assist with the potential inclusion of a reference to Evolution Mining, we provide the following information about Evolution, our Cowal Gold Operation and our contribution to the region.



## Who we are

Evolution Mining Pty Limited (Evolution) is a leading, growth-focussed Australian gold miner. Evolution operates seven wholly-owned mines – Cowal in New South Wales, Cracow, Mt Carlton, Mt Rawdon and Pajingo in Queensland, and Edna May and Mungari in Western Australia.

Evolution was created in late 2011 to form a mid-tier Australian gold producer through the merger of Catalpa Resources Ltd and Conquest Mining Ltd and the concurrent acquisition of Newcrest Mining's interests in the Cracow and Mt Rawdon gold mines. In FY15, Evolution had five wholly-owned mines and Group production totalled 437,570 ounces gold equivalent at an All-In Sustaining Cost (AISC) of A\$1,036/oz. This strong financial performance, which occurred despite the US dollar gold price falling during the 12 months to 30 June 2015, was assisted by a depreciation of the Australian dollar against the US dollar and a reduction in key input costs as activity in the resources sector fell.

This strong operating and financial base provided a platform for Evolution to undertake two transformational acquisitions during the period by completing the acquisition of the Cowal Gold Mine from Barrick in July 2015 and Mungari operations in Kalgoorlie from La Mancha Resources in August 2015. Evolution has guided FY16 attributable gold production from all seven operating assets of 770,000 – 820,000 ounces at an AISC of A\$970 – A\$1,020 per ounce.

Evolution's diversified portfolio, combining strong production and growth has enabled the Company to become the second largest ASX listed gold producer. Our focus as management is to operate our projects safely, efficiently and responsibly and develop them to their full potential. Our projects are all 100% owned and are located in very prospective regions that we continue to explore.

Evolution is committed to being a trusted and value-adding member of the community. We want our communities to be better off overall for us having been there and we strive to always leave a positive legacy in the communities in which we operate. One of our key initiatives to deliver these outcomes is our Shared Value Projects (Sustainable Community Development Projects). These are aimed at providing long-term, sustainable outcomes for the community that last beyond the life of the mine through local economic development, education and training, environment or sustainable health outcomes.

When it comes to environmental management, we believe we have an obligation to not only achieve legislative compliance but to strive for best practice and to meet the expectations of the communities we operate within and are part of. We are focused on enhancing environmental stewardship through the development and implementation of Evolution Environmental Protocols which hold us to a higher standard of environmental performance and create a clear and open community accountability framework and Life of Mine Environmental Management Plans across all project sites.



## **Cowal Gold Operation**

Our Cowal Gold Operation in NSW is located within the Bland Shire. In FY15, Cowal contributed over A\$22 Million to the Bland Shire, including over A\$10 Million in local procurement, over A\$900,000 in rates and over A\$11.5 Million in royalties. In the calendar year 2015, Cowal invested over A\$100,000 in sponsorships and donations within the Bland Shire through our Cowal Partnering Program as well as A\$15,000 through our Endeavour scholarship program.

Cowal is a significant regional residential site employing 257 people from the Bland, Lachlan and Forbes Shires. 145 of our Cowal employees live in the Bland Shire. In addition to the above mentioned rates and royalties, Evolution also contributes various State and Federal taxes, including PAYG.

Cowal's current life of mine extends to 2024. A key driver for Evolution going forward will be to reinvigorate exploration in the area with the aim of extending the current known mine life which will enable us to continue contributing to the Bland Shire and the Riverina. We are currently undertaking internal investigations into potential opportunities to grow and expand the asset. Once a viable option has been determined in sufficient detail, Evolution will engage with appropriate regulatory agencies, NSW Government Departments and the community.

Thank you in advance for considering our above request for inclusion in the Riverina Murray Regional Plan.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours Sincerely



Evan Elstein

Company Secretary and Vice President

IT and Community Relations

Cc: Ray Smith

Jeff Stien

