

Proposed relocation of part Travelling Stock Reserve 17085 at Lake Cowal

The NSW government proposes to relocate part of an existing travelling stock reserve (TSR) on Lake Cowal Road, Lake Cowal NSW 2676.

This document answers some frequently asked questions about the relocation of the TSR and what it means for the community and the TSR network.

Where is this TSR covered by the proposal?

The proposal relates to a section of TSR 17085 that is part Lot 100 in DP1059150.

The proposed section adjoins an existing gold mine known as the Lake Cowal Gold Operations. A map is available on the department's website (visit industry.nsw.gov.au/lands).

Why is the department proposing to relocate part of the TSR?

The operator of the gold mine, Evolution Mining (Cowal) Pty Ltd ("Evolution"), has approval to expand the mine, but requires part of the TSR to do this. The mine expansion project has been deemed to be of state significance and provides jobs in the West Wyalong area.

The proposal to relocate part of the TSR will facilitate the approved mine expansion, while safeguarding the travelling stock reserve network in this location around Lake Cowal.

Is this TSR used?

Riverina Local Land Services is responsible for the care, control and management this TSR and has advised that it is needed in this location.

If relocation of part TSR is approved, land owned by Evolution will be transferred to the state as the relocated part of the TSR and will be reserved into the TSR network. Relocation will be by direct negotiation with Evolution to ensure that users of the TSR are not disadvantaged.

The Crown Lands branch of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment may approve land to be sold by direct negotiation where a proposal complies with the Direct Negotiations for the Sale or Lease of Crown Land policy. A copy of the policy is available from the department's website (visit industry.nsw.gov.au/lands).

How can I use the TSR if the mining company needs the land?

TSRs are managed by Local Land Services. In this instance, the subject TSR is used for stock movement in accordance with the reserve purpose.

Both the department and Local Land Services recognise the importance and the need for a TSR in this location. If relocation of part of the TSR is approved, Local Land Services and the department will ensure that the relocated TSR at this location will provide safe stock access around the gold mine.

How will this affect the TSR network?

It is important that the TSR network is available for use in this location. If relocation is approved, the proposed part TSR will be reserved and added to the existing TSR network. The integrity of the network will be preserved.

Has this part of the TSR always been a TSR?

No. This is the second time that part of TSR 17085 has been relocated. It was historically aligned north-south along the edge of Lake Cowal, but part of the reserve was relocated to its current position in 2004 to allow establishment of the Cowal Gold Mine.

Is the proposed TSR contaminated by mining activities?

No. The proposed part TSR has not been subject to any mining activities and is not known to be affected by any contamination. There is no reason to expect that the proposed part TSR will pose any greater risk than the current part TSR.

The mine expansion environmental assessment included studies of groundwater quality at the Lake Cowal Gold Operations site. The studies showed that, 'concentrations of arsenic and cyanide in groundwater samples are very low and do not show signs of impact from mining'.

Will Lake Cowal Road be cut off by the proposed relocation?

No. Lake Cowal Road is proposed to be relocated with the part TSR and Evolution has been consulting with Bland Shire Council to ensure the proposed road relocation meets Council's expectations.

When will the department make a decision?

The department has carried out extensive due diligence assessments of this proposal. We are now seeking the community's views and feedback on the proposed relocation of part TSR 17085. We will make a decision after a 28-day consultation period, once we have considered comments and feedback.

There is no guarantee the proposal will progress once it reaches this stage.

What happens if the department does not approve relocation of part of the TSR?

If the department decides that relocation of part of the TSR will not meet NSW Government objectives and/or is not in the best interests of the public, then the department will refuse to deal in the subject land.

Should the department refuse relocation of part of the TSR, the TSR will continue to be available for stock movement under LLS management.

How will the department consult the community?

The notification period for this proposed dealing is 28 days commencing from 21 November 2019 and closing midnight 18 December 2019 (AEDT).

The department will accept public submissions during this time. You can make a submission online or via post. We will publish the timeframes and process on the department's website at industry.nsw.gov.au/lands.

You can view the notification on the department's website at industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/public/notifications

We will also publish an advertisement in *The West Wyalong Advocate*.

How will the department consider feedback and submissions in the decision-making process?

The department's consideration and assessment process is extensive. We will review and evaluate feedback and submissions with particular emphasis on the importance that the subject TSR has and how it is used by the local community.

If the community raises issues that were unknown to the department, we may need to engage further with the community.

The community's views are important and will contribute to the final decision on the use of the Crown land. More information is available on the department's website at industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/access/purchasing-land.

Wasn't consultation already undertaken for the mine extension project?

Yes. But the government always undertakes community consultation where Crown land is under consideration for divestment from the Crown estate. This is a requirement of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* and Crown land Community Engagement Strategy. The strategy aims to ensure that all decisions relating to divestment of Crown land are fully informed by the community.

Consultation undertaken for the mining project was extensive and related to the impact of the proposal and was specific to the potential effects of the proposed mine and its operations. However, the consultation did not specifically cover the relocation of the part TSR.

The mine extension was approved and a small number of submissions were received. Those submissions are publically accessible from the [NSW Planning Portal](#).

How will the community find out about the decision?

We will notify the public of the decision on our website at industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/public/notifications

How can I make a submission?

Community members can make a submission by visiting our public exhibition web page, industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/public/on-exhibition

You can find more information about the Community Engagement Strategy at industry.nsw.gov.au/lands

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