RUTH ABRAMS
Group Manager – Supply

ANIKA McMANUS
Group Manager – External & Indigenous Relations

Evolution Mining
Evolution – Cowal Gold Operations

- 350km west of Sydney; 40km north-east of West Wyalong
- Residential site employing approximately 400 locals from the Bland, Lachlan and Forbes shires
- Located on the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri People; represented by Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation
- Mining commenced in 2005; processing in 2006
- Evolution acquired Cowal in July 2015 (from Barrick)
- Recent extension of mining permit from 2024 to 2032
Objective: Identify opportunities to work together to deliver employment and training outcomes for Wiradjuri People and the broader local community

- **Nov 2016** first collaborative workshop
- **Project Bridge partners**
  - SRG
  - Maxam
  - BK Hire
  - Boart Longyear
  - Milbrae
  - BP Australia
  - Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation
  - Evolution
  - Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation
Project Bridge Video

• 20 minute video created for Careers Day and to roll out in schools throughout the region
  • Describing careers available with each Project Bridge partner (at Cowal & beyond)
  • Showing key stages in mining process
  • Dispelling myths
  • Humanising mining
  • Getting message into regional schools

• Share with you a 5 minute video about the Project Bridge collaborative partnership
Key Milestones and Outcomes

Collaborative workshop (November 2016)
- Brainstormed & prioritised ideas; passion & commitment from all

Job Ready Training (February 2016)
- Completed by 9 Wiradjuri candidates
- Improving program to target Project Bridge opportunities

Careers Day (April 2017)
- 108 students from 4 regional high schools
- Information stalls; career & study advice
Exploring Funding Options
- Supported by DPAC & regional training providers.

Traineeships (August 2017)
- Two new Wiradjuri trainees employed by Boart Longyear at Cowal Gold Operations

Mentoring Program
- Includes family support, a dedicated mentor throughout the traineeship and external assistance/guidance

New doors opening
- WCC exploring opportunities directly with each Project Bridge partner
Next Steps

- Collaboration continues - regular communication between Project Bridge partners and supporters
- Improving Job Ready training content and scheduling further programs
- Sharing Project Bridge video and local career message throughout regional schools
- Identifying further training and employment opportunities with Project Bridge members
- Exploring collaborative traineeship opportunities
- Conducting funding workshop to navigate the funding landscape
- Further brainstorming to prioritise activities for Project Bridge Phase 2
Key Learnings

• Power of collaboration (internally & externally)
• Mix of loose and structured approach as an enabler to success
• Goodwill created by strong supply & community partnerships
• Storytelling as a communication tool
• Willingness of government to provide support
• Importance of ‘letting go’
• Uncovering community assumptions and filling the gaps in understanding, re working at a mine
• Unlocking people’s passion and commitment
Project Bridge – The future

- Early success indicates Project Bridge can deliver long term, sustainable outcomes for the community.
- Collaboration and commitment from Project Bridge members ensures its sustainability – this initiative is not reliant on Evolution for its ongoing success.