

Modification 1 of Mt Browne Gold Mine

State Significant Development - Section 4.55(1) Modification Assessment (DOC14/042343-Mod-1)

September 2026

This report details the Department's assessment and evaluation of modification 1 of DOC14/042343, made under section 4.55(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The proposal

The Mt Browne Gold Mine (the mine) is an alluvial gold mine located approximately 6 km southwest of Milparinka in an unincorporated area of north-western NSW.

Mining was originally authorised under Mining Leases (MLs) 1330, 1333, 1334 granted under the *Mining Act 1992* in 1993 and ML 1372 granted under the *Mining Act 1992* in 1995.

On 14 March 2014, the Western Lands Commissioner granted development consent DOC14/042343 under Section 80 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for the continuation of mining and use of infrastructure in those ML areas. The applicant for development consent at the time was identified in the consent as Mr Stan Smythe and Yeltara Prospecting and Mining Pty Ltd, and the operation was called the Mt Browne Gold Mine.

On 24 December 2025, NewGoldCo Pty Ltd (NewGoldCo) acquired Yeltara Prospecting and Mining Pty Ltd. Following the acquisition, MLs 1330, 1334 and 1372 continued to be operated by Yeltara Prospecting and Mining Pty Ltd, while ML 1333 remained operated by Mount Browne Gold Mining Co Pty Ltd.

That is, two separate gold mining operations are operating under the same development consent.

NewGoldCo has named its operations within MLs 1330, 1334 and 1372 the 'Milparinka Gold Project'. The Mount Browne Gold Mining Co Pty Ltd continues to refer to its operations within ML 1333 as the 'Mt Browne Gold Mine'.

NSW Resources has separated the project into two operational areas for the purposes of the *Mining Act 1992*, and separate Environment Protection Licences are also required for each mining area.

NewGoldCo is now proposing to modify DOC14/042343 to separate responsibilities for the different operations under the development consent.

The modification statement prepared by NewGoldCo to support the application is listed in Appendix A.

Statutory context

Modification pathway

The Department has reviewed the proposed changes and is satisfied the modification is administrative in nature, only clarifies responsibility under the consent, and would result in no environmental impact. Accordingly, the Department considers that the application may be assessed and determined under section 4.55(1) of the EP&A Act.

The modification application was lodged on 22 July 2026. The prescribed period for determining the application expires 14 days after lodgement, on 5 August 2026.

Consent Authority

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces (the Minister) is the consent authority for this modification. However, the Team Leader, Resource Assessments may determine the modification in accordance with the Minister's instrument of delegation as in force at the date of determination.

Matters for consideration

The Department has taken into consideration the matters set out in section 4.15(1) of the EP&A Act and the reasons for granting the original consent, to the extent they are relevant.

Engagement

There is no mandatory public exhibition period for a modification application under section 4.55(1).

No additional agency engagement was considered necessary due to the administrative nature of the modification.

Evaluation

The Department has considered the modification application, the existing development consent, previous assessment of the project, applicable government policies and guidelines and whether any other mandatory statutory requirement applies.

The Department considers there is no legal reason that two separate operators cannot operate under a single development consent. The Department has proposed changes to the development consent to separate the obligations for each mining operator. The Department notes that under the proposed change, both operators would still be required to fully comply with all conditions in respect of their own operations.

The Department notes that the proposed changes are administrative in nature and there would be no environmental impacts associated with the modification. Consequently, the Department is satisfied the modification is appropriate and in the public interest.

Determination

It is recommended that the A/Team Leader, Resource Assessments, as delegate of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces:

1. **is satisfied** that the application is within the scope of section 4.55(1) of the EP&A Act.
2. **accepts and adopts** the findings and recommendations in this report as the reasons for making the decision to approve the modification.
3. **notes** that the prescribed period for determination has ended and therefore the modification application cannot be refused.
4. **modifies the consent** for the Mt Browne Gold Mine (DOC14/042343), subject to the conditions in the attached instrument of modification.
5. **signs the attached instrument of modification** (Appendix B).

Recommended by:



01/09/2026

Noshin Monshi

Environmental Assessment Officer
Resource Assessments

Recommended by:

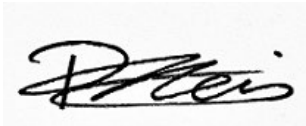


01/09/2026

Brittany Golding

Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Resource Assessments

The recommendation is **adopted** by:



01/09/2026

Philip Nevill

A/Team Leader
Resource Assessments

Appendices

Appendix A – Modification Report

Available on the Department's website at: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/daex/under-consideration/milparinka-gold-project-modification-1-doc14042343-mod-1>

Appendix B – Instrument of Modification

Available on the Department's website at: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/daex/under-consideration/milparinka-gold-project-modification-1-doc14042343-mod-1>

Appendix C – Consolidated Consent

Available on the Department's website at: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/daex/under-consideration/milparinka-gold-project-modification-1-doc14042343-mod-1>