

The Local Government (General) Regulation, section 400(4), requires that the Seal of Council must not be affixed to a document unless the document relates to the business of the Council and the Council has resolved by specific resolution referring to the document that the Seal be so affixed.

**(d) Community Consultation**

Nil

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**8.10 WOODSREEF MINE – REQUEST RECEIVED TO CLOSE SECTION OF MINE ROAD (FORMERLY CROW MOUNTAIN ROAD) – FILE NO SF1873**

**DIRECTORATE:** OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**AUTHOR:** Peter Thompson, General Counsel

**ANNEXURE ATTACHED**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the request to close part of Mine Road, Woodsreef received from the Woodsreef Taskforce, Council:*

- (i) note the request to close part of Mine Road at Woodsreef due to public health and safety concerns;*
- (ii) authorise the General Manager to respond to the request by confirming that Council will determine the request once the Woodsreef Taskforce has consulted with the community in relation to the proposed road closure;*
- (iii) confirm to the Woodsreef Taskforce that Council is available to participate in the consultation process; and*
- (iv) direct the General Manager to provide a further report to Council which includes the outcome of the Community Consultation.*

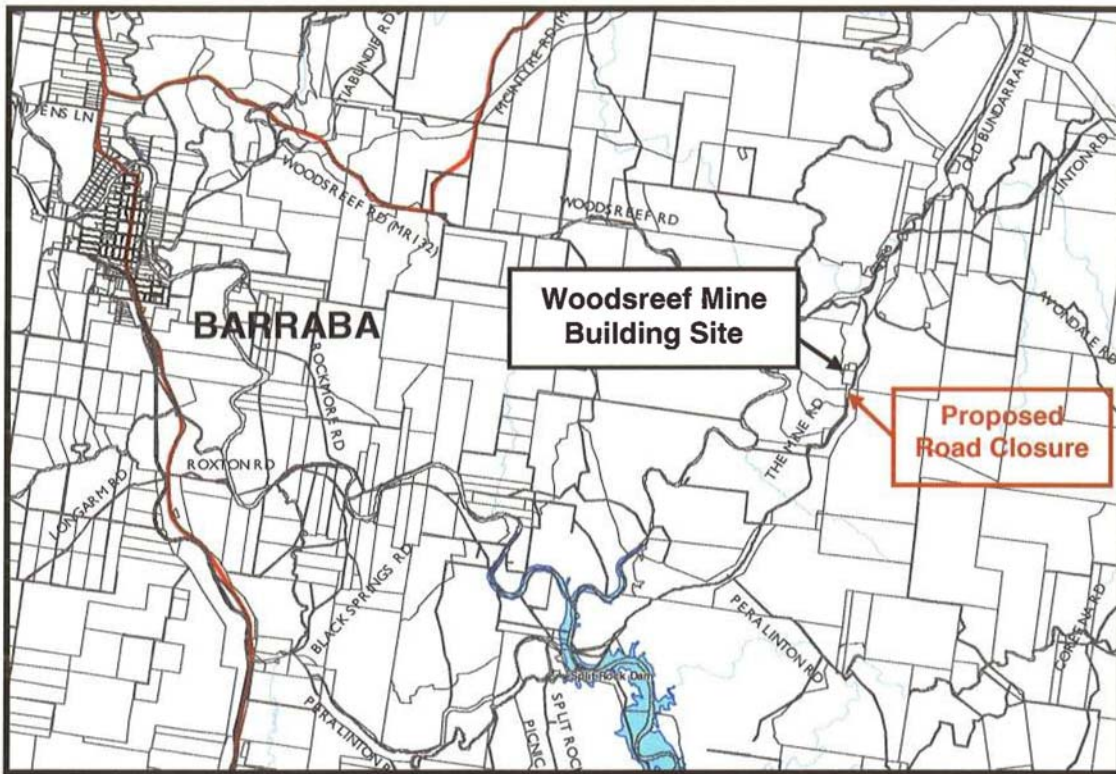
**SUMMARY**

Council has received a request to close part of Mine Road at Woodsreef from the Office of Resources and Energy on behalf of the Woodsreef Taskforce, refer **ANNEXURE 8.10**. The Taskforce has not undertaken any community consultation in relation to the proposed road closure and it is recommended that this consultation be undertaken before Council considers and determines the request.

**COMMENTARY**

Mine Road is located at Woodsreef near Barraba. It has formerly been known as Crow Mountain Road. The road is a gravel road which passes through the tailings at the Woodsreef Asbestos Mine and provides access to the entry gates of the old mill building and ancillary structures.

A locality plan and Road Closure Plan are provided below for reference.



LOCALITY PLAN



PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE- THE MINE ROAD WOODSREEF

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE PLAN

The Woodsreef Taskforce was established by the NSW Government comprising representatives from NSW Trade and Investment, the Department of Primary Industries, NSW Health and the Office of Environment and Heritage. The Taskforce oversees the Woodsreef Mine Major Rehabilitation Project which has the objective of reducing the risk of public health and safety associated with uncontained asbestos fibres and dangerous infrastructure.

The Taskforce recommends that part of the Mine Road be closed for the following reasons:

- the Woodsreef Taskforce notes the road verge itself contains significant emplacements of unstabilised friable asbestos product, the most hazardous form of asbestos found on the site;
- closing Mine Road prevents disturbance of this friable asbestos, and is one of the most effective means of restricting public access to the mine, the associated asbestos tailings and processing infrastructure; and
- road closure has been an effective method of reducing public exposure to asbestos at other former asbestos mines such as at Wittenoom in Western Australia.

There has been no consultation with the community in relation to the proposed road closure.

Council is aware from representations already received that the community has an interest in decisions about the road and for this reason it is important that the community is consulted in relation to the proposed road closure.

The appropriate body to lead this consultation is the Office of Resources and Energy which is administering the Woodsreef Mine Major Rehabilitation Project on behalf of the Taskforce. Council is not a member of the Taskforce.

Council officers have been in discussions with officers from the Office of Resources and Energy and it is proposed that Council assist in the consultation process as required.

Once the consultation has been completed, the outcomes will be reported to Council in relation to the decision to apply to the NSW Department of Lands for permanent closure of part of Mine Road.

The Taskforce, through the Office of Resources and Energy have also requested that Council remove all signage indicating the location of Woodsreef Mine and discourage advertising of the site as a tourist attraction. In this regard there are road signs, bird watching and fossicking routes which direct the public to the site and encourage walks along its boundary.

It is proposed that this request also be considered and determined when it is next reported to Council.

The closure of part of Mine Road and discouraging public access to the site is considered prudent given the public health concerns which are now openly by NSW State Government Agencies expressed in relation to the site.

Council action on this issue should be taken as soon as possible after the community have been consulted and provided with the reasons for the road closure request and the discouragement of public access.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

Nil