



MOUNT THORLEY WARKWORTH MINE EXTENSION HERITAGE APPROVALS

The Mount Thorley Warkworth (MTW) mine has recently gained approval for a major extension. As part of this mining approvals process, Aboriginal cultural heritage (ACH) was a key aspect that required careful management and detailed consultation. The mining consent called for the development of an Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan (AHMP), which has been successfully implemented in daily operations.

The project required ongoing consultation with the Aboriginal community regarding the proposed mine extension and the development of an ACH assessment approach. Following an assessment of the new development footprint against the current knowledge base of ACH surveys and recorded sites, a raft of further ACH assessments were conducted with the Aboriginal community, and impact mitigation strategies developed. Post-approval, AHMP development saw further and focused collaboration with the Aboriginal community as well as liaison with government departments to obtain approval of the plan.

Co-operation with the Aboriginal community on ACH management was integral to the MTW Project, which required the mitigation of potential impacts on a number of important ACH sites, such as grinding grooves, scarred trees and artefact scatters. Throughout the entire process for this complex project, ACH issues were handled in a timely and smooth fashion through thorough attention to detail and careful navigation of a complex compliance pathway.

Arrow are well placed to draw on experiences like these to assist proponents along all ACH approvals pathways, including those required for 'Tier 3' projects under WA's new *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act*.