

## PRESS RELEASE

ISSUED: FRIDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019

### DALRADIAN WELCOMES NEXT STAGE IN PLANNING PROCESS

#### First Major Review of Planning Application Concluded

Dalradian, the firm planning to develop an underground gold and silver mine at Curraghinalt in West Tyrone, has welcomed the completion of the first major review of its planning application.

Initial consultation on the 10,000-page planning application with statutory bodies such as the Department for the Economy and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency has now concluded.

In line with other major projects, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has issued a consolidated request for further information to help clarify the proposals. Dalradian will respond later this year. All new information provided will be publicly available and subject to an additional round of consultation.

Last month the Department for the Economy (DfE) also provided its initial assessment of Dalradian's plans which will create 1,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs. The Department was "supportive in terms of its potential economic benefits, skills development and development of our natural resources". It also noted that "from an economic perspective, it is clear that the Curraghinalt Project has the potential to offer significant benefits to the Northern Ireland economy".

Patrick F.N. Anderson, Dalradian's CEO, said:

"We're happy to have completed the first major period of review and consultation on our application. Dalradian welcomes close scrutiny of our proposals, including a public inquiry at the appropriate stage."

Other consultees include the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland which expressed "confidence" in Dalradian's approach to demonstrate the nature and extent of the gold deposit. Dalradian has been working on the project since late 2009. Invest NI noted that the project has already brought "substantial economic benefits" to the area and that it will be an "important addition" to local economic infrastructure.

Welcoming these comments Mr. Anderson added:

“Dalradian is the largest Foreign Direct Investment project brokered by Invest NI in the past eight years and DfE has acknowledged that Government policy is to support the responsible exploitation of valuable minerals.

“The Department’s response clearly sets out the economic benefits which Dalradian’s proposals will bring to the local economy. Over the 20-25 year lifespan of the mine we will directly employ at least 350 people with an average salary of £40,000 and spend US\$1bn through the project’s supply chain, with more than 600 indirect and induced jobs being created.

“Dalradian is proposing a safe project that meets or exceeds strict environmental standards. The proposed mine will bring widespread social benefits to the area, including training, investment in technology, skilled, well-paid jobs that will keep families together and young people from emigrating, and support for community projects.”

Peter McKenna, Dalradian’s Community Relations Manager, said:

“The planning process for large projects is dynamic and involves requests for further information and clarifications to help stakeholders assess the proposal.

“This is a standard approach and Dalradian will continue to liaise with regulatory authorities to progress this once-in-a-generation opportunity for Co. Tyrone.

“We’re delighted that the project has received over 2,700 letters of support so far – particularly when the level of positive responses for large projects is typically in single digits as compared to the thousands of objection letters normally received.”

Dalradian submitted its planning application in November 2017 and will respond to the request for new information during the first half of 2019.

**ENDS**

**For further information please contact MCE Public Relations**

Tel: +44 (0)28 90267099

E: [media@dalradian.com](mailto:media@dalradian.com)