

# McPhillamys Gold Project CCC Minutes

Title	McPhillamys Gold Project Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting #17																													
Meeting Date	20 June 2022 @ 6pm																													
Venue	Attended both by ZOOM and in person at the Blayney Community Centre ZOOM*																													
Chair	<b>David Johnson (DJ)</b>	Independent Chairperson																												
Meeting Attendees	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><b>Cyril Smith (CS)</b></td> <td style="width: 50%;">ORWSA Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Elizabeth Russ (ER)</b></td> <td>Community Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Bob Russ (BR)</b></td> <td>Community Representative Alternate</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Daniel Sutton (DS) Miles</b></td> <td>BHPG Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Hedge* (MH)</b></td> <td>Community Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Tom Williams (TW)</b></td> <td>Community Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Ross Earl</b></td> <td>Blayney Council (Acting GM)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Andrew Wannan (AW)*</b></td> <td>Regis Resources</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Danielle Wallace (DW)*</b></td> <td>Regis Resources</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Kathryn Logan (KL)</b></td> <td>Regis Resources</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Tim Kindred*</b></td> <td>Regis Resources, Observer</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">-----</td> </tr> </table>		<b>Cyril Smith (CS)</b>	ORWSA Representative	<b>Elizabeth Russ (ER)</b>	Community Representative	<b>Bob Russ (BR)</b>	Community Representative Alternate	<b>Daniel Sutton (DS) Miles</b>	BHPG Representative	<b>Hedge* (MH)</b>	Community Representative	<b>Tom Williams (TW)</b>	Community Representative	-----		<b>Ross Earl</b>	Blayney Council (Acting GM)	-----		<b>Andrew Wannan (AW)*</b>	Regis Resources	<b>Danielle Wallace (DW)*</b>	Regis Resources	<b>Kathryn Logan (KL)</b>	Regis Resources	<b>Tim Kindred*</b>	Regis Resources, Observer	-----	
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Apologies	<b>Heather Nicholls</b> <b>Veronica Windus</b> <b>Peter Hildenbeutel (PH)</b> <b>Rachel Healy</b>	Cabonne Council Cabonne Council Community Representative Regis Resources Bathurst Council
Next Meeting	12 September 2022 @ 6.00pm Blayney Community Centre 91 Adelaide Street, Blayney NSW or Via ZOOM* depending on COVID restrictions.	

## **MEETING WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - David Johnson**

Meeting opened at 6:03pm

**Apologies** tendered for the meeting: Heather Nicholls & Veronica Windus (Cabonne Council);  
Rachel Healy

**Introduction** and acknowledgement of Country by David Johnson

DJ noted that Tim Kindred (Regis Project Director) and (at 6.27pm) Ross Earl (Actg GM, Blayney Council) were also in attendance.

**Declarations** of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests: NIL

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (22 November 2021) – David Johnson**

- The minutes of the last meeting on 28 March 2022 were approved by the Community Consultative Committee as being read and correct. It was noted that the out-of-session zoom meeting with Steve O'Donoghue of DPE was held on 1 June 2022, and notes were circulated.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Cyril Smith email to McPhillamys CCC Chair and Department of Planning and Environment (Friday 17 June 2022); forwarded to CCC members (Monday 20 June). See attachment.

- DJ reported that three nominations have been received for the CCC community member vacancy.

## **REGIS RESOURCES MCPHILLAMYS GOLD PROJECT UPDATE (PRESENTATION PUBLISHED ON WEBSITE)**

Note delays with NSW Government returning key information to Regis:

- Water modelling delay means RFI cannot be returned by RRL by 30 June 2022 as planned.
- Water licence application (controlled allocation) outcome was due mid-June - no answer received as yet.

DW provided a summary of the Amendment 2 application (see presentation);

DW noted that the Right to Negotiate (under Aboriginal & Torres Strait Heritage Protection Act) period has now closed with no registrations; therefore Mining Lease Application 613 can proceed.

DW noted that because of the delays, the regulatory approvals process has not advanced since last CCC meeting

## **QUESTIONS ARISING FROM REGIS PRESENTATION**

**Surely DPE can issue their approval rapidly. The question is what conditions they will apply. (MH)**

That is the normal process, DPE will apply normal conditions as well as some project-specific conditions. DPE will make recommendations to IPC and the conditions will apply if the project is recommended. (AW)

**Is Native Title on the mine site now extinguished? (DS)**

Yes. That was the only area of potential native title on the mining lease. (DW)

**On the map of the mining lease, there is no infrastructure on the area to the west of the pit. Why is that area still included in the mining lease? (DS)**

The area is included in the mining lease but is outside the surface disturbance footprint. Previous mine plans have included disturbance there but the current mine plan does not. Regis has no plans to disturb that area but may place monitoring equipment there. (DW)

**The second amendment report was 400 pages while other reports were 60-90 pages. Why was it so long? (DS)**

The second Amendment Report is long because it includes new biodiversity calculations for the entire mine site and pipeline based on the updated Biodiversity Assessment Methodology 2020.

The Biodiversity Conservation Act (2016) requires major projects to assess and report on biodiversity impacts using a specific methodology.

When the McPhillamys Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared in 2019, the

Biodiversity Assessment Report (BDAR) was written using the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology (2017). The first Amendment Report (2020) was written using the same BDAR methodology (under transitional provisions).

The Biodiversity Conservation Act (2016) and Biodiversity Assessment Methodology were updated in 2020. The second Amendment Report had to be written using the new Biodiversity Assessment Methodology 2020, so new biodiversity calculations and assessments had to be done for the entire mine project area and pipeline. (DW)

**When DPE's recommendations for the amount of Surface Water Licences Regis should hold is compared to the Amendment Report, there is a discrepancy. Will the Amendment Report resolve the discrepancy? (DS)**

DPE Water needs to be satisfied that Regis has taken all steps to minimise impacts above and below Carcoar Dam. DPE is currently modelling the methods Regis proposes to use to minimize impacts. (That modelling is the information Regis needs to file for the final response to the Request for Information).

Once impacts have been quantified and agreed, Regis will know how much water they will need to licence.

The amount of water needed to be licenced will not be a direct reflection of impact.

Regis also notes that a lot of the work being done around managing impacts to water falls outside the scope of the second Amendment Report.

Letters between Regis and DPE relating to requests for information about water are available on the Planning Portal. (AW)

**A couple of the dams have been changed to Turkey's Nest types but this is not included in the Amendment Report. Does Regis intend to use that design? (DS)**

Diversions around clean water facilities 4 & 5 have the effect of turning those dams into Turkey's Nests. (AW)

## **OTHER AGENDA ITEMS**

- Nil

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Discussion about Cyril Smith's email to McPhillamys CCC Chair (DJ) and Department of Planning and Environment (Friday 17 June 2022), forwarded to CCC members (Monday 20 June):**

**The notes from the meeting with DPE on 1 June 2022 should be updated (CS) – in accordance with that email.**

Climate change was included in the EIS (2019) and the Amendment Report (2020) using CSIRO modelling.

CS has provided additional information in his email that was released after those reports were written, information in draft form and information that is not publicly available.

Regis cannot update the EIS and other reports ad hoc as new information becomes available. Noted that SEARS requirements have been met. (AW)

**Request for a written report on the information provided in the email. (CS)**

Regis has provided the email to its environmental consultants who will comment on the information. Any issues arising will be dealt with through the formal process of assessment and determination. It is expected that climate change will be a matter of consideration for the IPC. Regis declined to write a report specifically addressing information referred to in the email. (AW)

**Request for a written reply to the email (CS)**

The Chair will reply to the email as it was sent to him, will acknowledge receipt and that Regis has sent it to their consultants. The email will also be attached to these minutes (Attachment 1). (DJ)

CS remained of the opinion that he should be sent a written report.

**2. There has always been talk of McPhillamys processing ore from other possible nearby 'satellite' mines. If a satellite resource was developed, would the McPhillamys approval have to be amended and would a whole new approval process apply to the satellite resource? (DS)**

Regis has always been open about the opportunities associated with satellite resources in the area. If the ore source feeding McPhillamys changed, a modification would need to be submitted. If Regis wanted to develop a satellite resource, it would be done under an entirely new approval.

When modifications are made to projects, the original approval is updated. Updates are shown in different colours on the consent instrument. (AW)

**3. Question on notice: Cadia has a big problem with dust blowing off their tailings dam. How does Regis plan to prevent this happening? (ER) (Action item 9)**

**4. Brief overview of Tim Kindred's background and position requested (DS)**

TK is the Project Delivery Director and has been with Regis for 15 months. He is responsible for all aspects of delivery, construction and commissioning for the McPhillamys project. He is based in Melbourne, spends half his work time in Blayney and will relocate if the project is approved. His professional background is in base metals and gold.

**5. Do you still need to submit a final response to DPE Water and can you do it quickly? Yes, subject to review of the DPE Water information. (AW)**

**6. It is a continuing disappointment that DPE does not attend every meeting. (ER)**

- CCC Guidelines state that DPE are not members of the CCC but can attend to discuss particular issues. DPE sees the CCCs as a community forum (AW). There is no expectation that DPE representatives should attend CCC meetings (DJ).
- We don't have that opportunity if they are not here. (ER)
- If there is a particular issue for them to address, then they should attend. (AW)
- There is a difference in expectations – they can't attend every meeting. If there is a specific issue for them to address, they will be requested to attend. (DJ)

**ACTIONS**

**28 March 2022** Out of session meeting with DPE organized and held Wednesday 1 June 2022.

	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Due By</b>
1	Book Blayney Community Centre for the 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Rachel Healy	25 June 2022
2	Draft minutes to be provided to the Chairperson	Rachel Healy	23 June 2022
3	Draft minutes distributed to members by email (including alternates)	David Johnson	28 June 2022
4	Committee members provide comment on minutes to Chairperson	All committee members	8 July 2022
5	Minutes finalised & posted on the McPhillamys Website	David Johnson Rachel Healy	15 July 2022
6	Questions and answers from the June CCC meeting to be added to the McPhillamys website.	Rachel Healy	n/a
7	Attach Cyril Smith's email to these minutes.	Rachel Healy	Completed
8	Reply to Cyril Smith's email	David Johnson	4 July 2022

9	How will Regis prevent dust generation from the tailings storage facility? (ER)	Regis	Next meeting
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**MEETING CLOSED**

Meeting closed at approx. 7.20pm

**Attachment 1: Email from Cyril Smith re Notes from CCC out-of-session meeting with DPE on 1 June 2022**

Mon 20/06/2022 11:14 AM  
David Johnson <johnsons08@iinet.net.au>  
[EXTERNAL] : McPhillamys CCC - Out of session meeting with S O'Donoghue NSW Planning

To:  Kathryn Logan;  Andrew Wannan;  Danielle Wallace;  council@cabonne.nsw.gov.au;  Rebecca Ryan;  Daniel Sutton;  Elizabeth Russ;  bob russ;  Miles Hedge;  Peter Hildenbeutel;  Cyril Smith;  Tom Williams

 You replied to this message on 20/06/2022 11:44 AM.  
If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

Suggested Meetings + Get more add-i

**CAUTION:**This message was sent from outside the organisation. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Everyone,

I am forwarding the email below from Cyril Smith, with his approval, regarding the out of session on-line CCC meeting on 1 June 2022 with Steve O'Donoghue from the DPE. The comments specifically relate to issues around water modelling and possible future reduction in streamflows.

I will note the information received from Cyril at the meeting tonight. I hope to see you all at the Blayney Community Centre at 6 pm.

Regards,  
David

**From: David Johnson**  
email: [johnsons08@iinet.net.au](mailto:johnsons08@iinet.net.au)  
phone: 0412 160 200

----- Original Message -----  
**From:**  
"Cyril Smith" <[cyril.r.smith@gmail.com](mailto:cyril.r.smith@gmail.com)>

**To:**  
"David Johnson" <[johnsons08@iinet.net.au](mailto:johnsons08@iinet.net.au)>  
**Cc:**  
"Steve O'Donoghue" <[Stephen.ODonoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Stephen.ODonoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au)>, "Mandana Mazaheri" <[Mandana.Mazaheri@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Mandana.Mazaheri@planning.nsw.gov.au)>, "Cyril Smith" <[cyril.r.smith@gmail.com](mailto:cyril.r.smith@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:**  
Fri, 17 Jun 2022 13:17:26 +1000  
**Subject:**  
Out of session meeting with S O'Donoghue NSW Planning

David Johnson  
Chair  
McPhillamys Gold Mine Project CCC

David, I write to express some concerns I have regarding the standard, true and accurate, of the notes from the CCC meeting of 1 June 2022.

I made some comments after a Regis representative asserted that 136 years of historical data had been used in producing its water component for the Project's assessment. My thoughts were that since the Project in the future, future water availability should be taken into account based on the "best available science".

I indicated that the Draft NSW Regional Water Strategies and reports from MDBA's Rivers Reflections Conference 2021 were good sources of reliable information. There is no mention of this fact in the notes provided by Regis. I would request that the notes be altered to acknowledge this point.

From the Lachlan Regional Water Strategy (p26) - Improved climate modelling and data - "we can now access the impact of changes in flows and water security over a much larger range of climatic conditions than we had by only considering the observed historical data..... more informed decisions and better planning and preparing for climate risks".  
([www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/lachlan-regional-water-strategy](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/lachlan-regional-water-strategy))

It is not apparent to me - at this moment - that Regis fully appreciates this aspect. Regis could offer information that would confirm it has fully embraced the predicted reduced stream flows over the life of the Project.

A good explanation of why streamflow has reduced over the past 30 years (since 1990) was presented at the MDBA's "Rivers Reflections Conference" (Griffith June 2021). A keynote presentation by Prof Mark Howden (ANU Institute Climate Change), showed this reduction is due to climate change- greater area for higher temperatures, lower rainfall and drier air. Prof Mark Howden says climate change effects on streamflow are hitting harder and faster than was first projected.  
(<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8581496>  
or  
<https://www.mdba.gov.au/news-media-events/river-reflections-conference>) - my choice  
[www.bom.gov.au/water/hrs/#id=412028](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/hrs/#id=412028)

A, soon to be released, local research paper on reduced streamflows will confirm these trends. The paper employed IQQM and was peer reviewed by knowledgeable hydrologists. It would be inappropriate for me to divulge details of the research at this time, hence the need for confidentiality at the CCC June meeting. The paper will be available upon its release.

The notes - "note" - on this point are disappointing in tone and content. They probably reflect the contents of an internal memo at Cadia Valley Operations and as such I would request that the notes be re-written in a more acceptable manner.

Further, the 2020 NSW Draft Regional Water Strategy for the Macquarie-Castlereagh forecasts a further 50% reduction in annual streamflow over the next 50 years on the current reduced streamflow.  
(<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/data/pdf/file/0018/324513/draft-rws-macquarie-castlereagh.pdf> (page 33)

These trends for streamflow reductions should be seriously considered when evaluating the feasibility and viability of this Project.

In preparation to speak at a recent Western Region Planning Panel, I was informed by the Planning Panels Secretariat that COVID legislation prevented any in-person public meeting. I do appreciate this being checked, the revoking of the legislation, before the announcement of the McPhillamys IPC.

Kind regards  
Cyril

Cyril Smith  
CCC representative for  
Orange and Region Water Security Association  
17 June 2022