

McPhillamys Gold Project

#8 Pipeline water supply

Sustainable water supply

A unique feature of McPhillamys is the proposal for a sustainable water supply to the mine via a pipeline from the Lithgow area. That means the project would not have to compete with local landholders for its production water.

The proposed 90 km pipeline would bring surplus, stock-quality water from the Centennial Coal and Energy Australia operations, near Springvale. It would take approximately 12 months to build, creating up to 120 construction jobs.

Planning the pipeline route

The proposed pipeline route has been carefully planned to minimise environmental impacts along the corridor. The final alignment chosen means that the pipeline corridor generally traverses large areas of cleared agricultural land and Radiata Pine timber plantations .

Where possible, the pipeline would be trenched into existing roads and tracks, minimising impact to native vegetation and threatened species habitat.

Impacts to the Macquarie River and Queen Charlottes Creek would also be avoided, by using

underboring rather than trenching, during the construction phase of the pipeline.

Safety testing and monitoring

During commissioning, the pipeline would be pressure tested and monitored for any leaks.

During construction, periodic monitoring of water quality is proposed along the pipeline corridor at permanent stream crossings.

The likelihood of a pipeline rupture is reduced through modelling of pipeline pressures during the detailed design phase, together with quality assurance and checking after construction.

Once the pipeline is completed, regular inspections and leak detection monitoring would be part of the ongoing operation and maintenance procedures.

After the mine closes

Once mining ceases, the infrastructure could remain and be used to help drought-proof Blayney and the Central West.

It could be used by other industries, including agriculture, Councils or local water authorities and it could link up with other pipelines and water sources to move water to the area.

Below:
The proposed 90km pipeline route for McPhillamys (concept route)

