

McPhillamys Gold Project

Community Information Sheet No. 10

March 2020

Students helping to grow local native trees

Blayney High School students are planning to grow native trees to plant locally, following a seed-collection workshop they participated in at the Regis Aziel property near Blayney, in February.

The workshop, run by Skillset Land Works, included species identification as well as seed collection, processing, storage and propagation.

Blayney High School agriculture teacher, Rachel Croft, said it was a good opportunity for students to learn

about ecology, local ecosystems and the environmental issues facing our local area.

“The students will now grow some of the native seeds they collected on the trip,” Rachel said.

The Aziel property was purchased by Regis for protection and rehabilitation, in perpetuity. The site has high value conservation areas which will be protected as an offset to areas impacted by the proposed McPhillamys Gold Project.



Above: Blayney High School students and Skillset Land Works staff at the Regis Aziel property, near Blayney.

Left: Students collected seed pods from native trees.



Stay up to date!

Register for McPhillamys Project news and updates at:
www.mcphillamysgold.com

Or call us and we'll take your details over the phone: (02) 6368 4100

McPhillamys Community Consultative Committee

The McPhillamys Community Consultative Committee (CCC) was established to promote information sharing between Regis, the community and other stakeholders.

The Committee includes local residents, community and council representatives and Regis representatives. It is chaired independently by David Johnson, who was appointed by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

If you have questions or issues you'd like raised at the CCC get in touch with your community or council representative. A full list of the members and their contact details is available on our project website:

<https://www.mcphillamysgold.com/mcphillamys/community>



Above: Members of the McPhillamys CCC at the 24 February 2020 meeting. For a list of members and their contact details go to: <https://www.mcphillamysgold.com/mcphillamys/community>

McPhillamys Gold Project Update

The last of the government agency submissions on the McPhillamys Gold Project were received in January 2020, bringing the total number of submissions to 671. These include 624 from members of the public, 27 from organisations and 20 from public authorities.

No public authorities objected to the project despite raising questions and comments on various aspects of the Development Application (DA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The next step in the assessment process is for Regis to review and respond to the feedback and requests for additional information. This will be done in a document called a Response to Submissions (RTS).

Regis will also submit an Amendment Report which will outline project finetuning, and changes which have been made in response to issues raised in the submissions received.

Both the Submissions Report and the Amendment Report will be lodged with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in the middle of the year.

We welcome the comments and suggestions provided by agencies and the community and we will continue to finetune plans as the project proceeds.

Assessment Process



Air quality monitoring for safety at McPhillamys

At McPhillamys we have been measuring air quality for a number of years to build an accurate picture of local conditions over time. This continuous monitoring on and around the McPhillamys site provides important information for assessing the impact of the project on local air quality.

Studies indicate that there will be no unsafe levels of dust or other pollutants as a result of the project.

McPhillamys has been designed to minimise and manage air emissions with measures such as minimising disturbed areas; undertaking progressive rehabilitation; using enclosed conveyors; and using water sprays on stockpiles and water trucks on unpaved roads.

These measures will effectively control emissions during mining operations.



Above: A High Volume Air Sampler (HVAS) used to measure air quality on and around the McPhillamys site.

Left: Water trucks are used to keep soil damp and minimise dust.

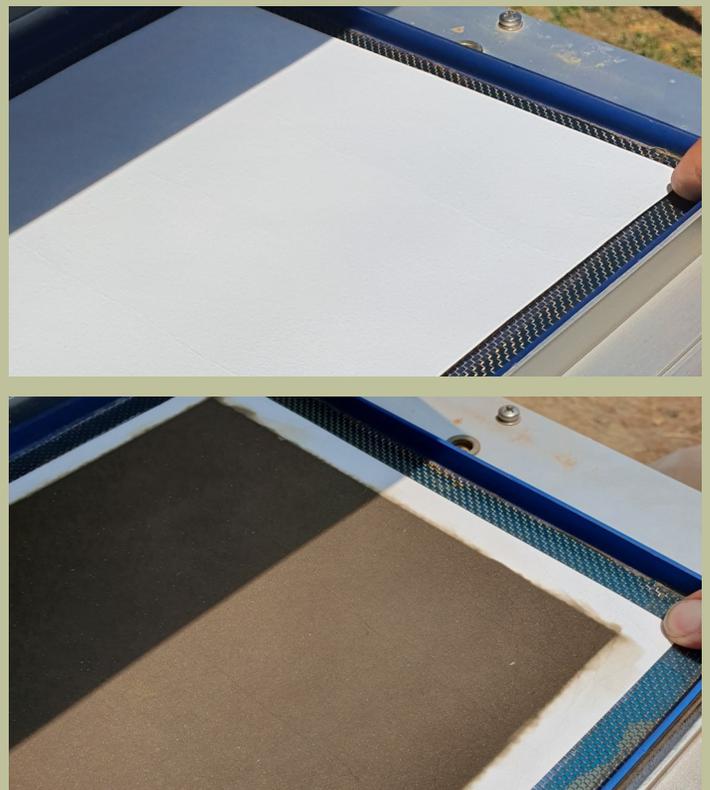
Understanding air quality

Independent studies have been conducted since 2013 to provide an understanding of the existing air quality on and around the McPhillamys Gold Project site.

This is being done through a network of air quality and meteorology (weather) monitoring equipment installed at key locations around the mine site. The equipment records the weather; levels of airborne dust residue and pollutants; and levels of deposited dust.

The photos on the far right show our white filter paper going into the High Volume Air Sampler (HVAS), pictured on the top right hand side of this page, and then coming out after a recent dust storm... quite a difference! For more information on air quality and monitoring see our project fact sheet at: <https://www.mcphillamysgold.com>

Right: McPhillamys dust filters before (top) and after (bottom) a recent dust storm.



Farming to continue during mining operations

Livestock grazing has been the main agricultural land use within the McPhillamys project site since the area was first settled in the 1820s.

The current land use is a mixture of beef cattle and sheep grazing.

Land purchased by Regis Resources for the McPhillamys Gold Project is currently leased back to local farmers and continues to be used for agriculture.

If the project is approved, McPhillamys will co-exist with agricultural operations on and around the site, as many other mines do.

Agricultural land studies

Detailed, independent studies were prepared for the McPhillamys project to understand the impacts of the mine on agricultural land.

These studies are outlined in the project's Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) and they concluded that most impacts will be minimal and temporary.

The Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) concluded:

- Only a small area of the McPhillamys site will be used for mining operations, the rest will continue to be used for agriculture;
- There is no Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) in the mining lease application area;
- Up to 1,135ha of land will be disturbed for the project, which equates to less than 1% of the total area used for agriculture in the Blayney Local Government Area; and
- More than half of the project area (1,378 ha) won't be disturbed, and the majority of this land will continue to be used for agriculture (grazing).

Below: (left) Regis native tree planting on the McPhillamys site and (right) McPhillamys site currently used for grazing cattle



- While some reduction in Land Soil Class (LSC) will occur, the project area will be rehabilitated and returned to an agricultural land use, with the exception of the open pit void.
- Land covering the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) will be rehabilitated and improved from a pre-project LSC 5 ('Moderate/low capability land') to a post-rehabilitation LSC Class 4 ('Moderate capability land'), which is still suitable for cattle.

What happens when the mine closes?

After mining, the majority of the area impacted by mining will be rehabilitated and suitable for agricultural use after the mine has closed — with the exception of the open pit void.

During and after mining operations there will be extensive rehabilitation of the site. Some agricultural land will be rehabilitated to a higher standard than currently exists.

Opportunities for farmers to earn off-farm income

Mining and other industries have a long history of successfully co-existing together, creating jobs and prosperity for NSW, particularly in regional areas.

NSW mining operations spend billions of dollars each year on wages; purchases from over 8,000 local supplier businesses; and royalties and taxes paid to the NSW Government.

McPhillamys Gold Project will create hundreds of jobs during construction and operations. This includes potential for farmers to supplement their income by getting work on the Project, either full time or during shut downs.

