

McPhillamys Gold Project

#17 Agriculture

Agricultural Impact Statement

An Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) was prepared in 2019 and forms part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the McPhillamys project. The Agricultural Impact Statement found:

- There is no Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land 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.
- More than half of the project area (1,378 ha) will remain undisturbed, and the majority of this land will continue to be used for current agricultural (grazing) purposes.
- 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.
- With the exception of the open pit void, the impacts to agricultural land within the project area will be temporary.
- 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').
- The financial impact to the Blayney agricultural industry income will be 1% during the operational life of the project, and 0.2% after the project has closed.

What the assessment considered

The assessment looked at current and historical agricultural use of land on the site and the economic value of agricultural activity within the Blayney Local Government Authority area.

It also considered the current class of soils and how they may change as a result of the project.

Current land use at McPhillamys

Grazing of livestock on improved and unimproved pastures has been the main agricultural land use within the project site since the area was first settled in the 1820s.

The current land use is a mixture of beef cattle grazing and sheep grazing. No cropping land is affected.

Land outside of the mine disturbance area (but still within the broader McPhillamys site) will continue to be used for agricultural purposes throughout the life of the mine.

After the mine has closed

The majority of the rehabilitated site will be suitable for the continuation of agricultural land use after mining, apart from the pit void. After the mine has closed, the landform will be predominately a combination of LSC class 4, class 5 and class 6 land.

The LSC class across parts of the TSF footprint will be improved from a pre-project LSC class 5 to a post rehabilitation LSC class 4. The rehabilitation of the TSF landform means there will be only a minimal change in class 4 land across the disturbance area as a result of the project.



Above: Most of the site will be suitable for agricultural use after mining.