

McPhillamys Gold Project

Community Information Sheet No. 12

October 2020

Project improvements respond to local feedback

Regis Resources has made a number of improvements to plans for the McPhillamys Gold Project, taking into account feedback received from the community, councils and government agencies during the public exhibition of the project in late 2019.

The changes are outlined in an Amendment Report lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in early September. Regis has also lodged the Submissions Report, which outlines the company's response to issues raised during the public exhibition of the Project.

Regis Manager Special Projects, Tony McPaul, said both documents were now publicly available and Regis would be meeting with neighbours and other local stakeholders to brief them on the changes.

"We've worked hard to address the issues raised in the exhibition period and we look forward to sharing details of the amended project with the community," Tony said.

"Regis staff, consultants and independent experts have examined the issues in detail and we've made a series of changes to the project plans," he said.

"Most importantly, the key changes will further reduce the noise impact on our neighbours, particularly in Kings Plains as well as improving traffic conditions at the site entry."

The key changes to the project include:

- moving the site access to the east, to further improve traffic movement and safety;
- changes to the mine operations schedule and the selection of trucks and other equipment to further reduce noise impacts; and
- changes to the tailings storage facility area and water management system to protect potential heritage items and trees.

See page 3 for more details on the project changes...

Working with our neighbours and other local landholders

Regis is working with neighbours and landowners closest to the project site on individual plans to reduce potential noise, dust and visual impacts of the project.

Households closest to the mine have been offered mitigation options including double glazing, air conditioners, water filters, building modifications and tree planting for visual screening.

Regis Manager Special Projects, Tony McPaul said tree planting had already commenced to provide visual screens for a number of neighbours and others would follow in the months ahead.

Mr McPaul said close neighbours (most likely to be impacted by noise) would also have the option of selling their properties to Regis if they chose not to live near the mine once operations commenced.

"Many of our neighbours don't want to sell and are happy to stay," he said, "But we've made that offer so that people will have the option if they decide to sell and move elsewhere once mining starts - if the project is approved," he said.



Above: Regis' Tony McPaul discussing the project with local farmer, neighbour and lessee, Michael Parfett.

McPhillamys to bring new job and business opportunities

If the McPhillamys Gold Project is approved there will be hundreds of new jobs in the local area. This includes jobs at the mine and also in businesses servicing the mine.

The project will employ approximately 260 people directly each year, during operations.

But these jobs are not just in mining: our environmental activities already involve a number of interesting work and training roles and these will increase if the project is approved.

Part time roles for off-farm income

A key focus for the project will be managing demand for jobs to avoid disruption to other local businesses. That's something we will be working on with Blayney Shire Council and the business community.

There has been strong interest in new approaches including possible part-time shifts. These part-time shifts would be ideal for farmers and other locals looking to supplement their income without having to take on a full-time role.

The project is still being assessed but you can register your interest or find out more about the opportunities, in the event of an approval.

Send in your CV or contact us at the Regis office:

57 Adelaide Street, Blayney

Ph: 02 6368 4100 E: nsw_enquiries@regisresources.com



Above: Gold mining provides all sorts of interesting jobs for women and men of different ages and skill levels.

Blayney students all set for spring planting



Above: Rachel Croft (Blayney High School) and Chris Roach (Regis Resources) discussing options for the hothouse upgrade.

Blayney High School students are all set for the spring growing season following an upgrade of the school's hothouse, funded by Regis.

Blayney High School teacher, Rachel Croft said she was looking forward to using the space and creating learning opportunities and experiences for students.

"We can now start growing fresh food for the canteen, kitchen and agriculture programs at the school, as well as starting our aquaponics program," Rachel said.

"Many thanks to Regis for helping get the project off the ground and completing the renovations," she said.

Regis Manager Special Projects, Tony McPaul, said the upgrade would also enable the school to develop a native seedling program in collaboration with Regis.

"We're really pleased to help the school create these opportunities for local students," Tony said.

The hothouse upgrade included new canvas covering and a repositioning of the doors to create new growing spaces. All work was carried out by a local contractor.

McPhillamys Gold Project Amendment Report:

What are the changes?

How will they help?

Where can I get a copy?

For more information about the amended project and our response to submissions:

- Go to www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/9821
- Pick up a USB containing the full report and all supporting documents, from our Blayney office
- Call us to talk to the project team Ph: 6368 4100 or E: nsw_enquiries@regisresources.com

The key changes to the proposed McPhillamys Project are contained in the Amendment Report which has been submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for assessment.

Moving the site access

The entry point and access road has been moved further east (approx. 1km) along the Mid-Western Highway. (see concept diagram below)

This follows concerns raised by the local community during the consultation process.

The new location allows for better and safer vehicle movements into and out of the site.

The traffic plan also provides for construction of a new shoulder/pull-off area for the local school bus on the southern side of the Mid Western Highway.

Improvements to the mine schedule

The second change is the 'optimisation' of the mine schedule. That means changes to the way mining is conducted, in particular the timing and number of vehicle movements—and the type of machines used.

These changes will further reduce the impact of noise and dust for our neighbours in Kings Plains.

Instead of starting to build the waste rock emplacement on the southern side of the site, we will start in the north, where the vehicle and equipment impact is further away from the highway and our neighbours.

By the time we start building at the southern end, close to neighbours, the open pit will be lower and that will provide a natural noise barrier—reducing the impact on the community.

Changing the location of water storage

The design and location of water storage on the site has also been changed, with a number of benefits: we have reduced the area impacted by water storage facilities; reduced the number of trees which would be impacted by the dams; and provided protection for an old cottage which is of potential heritage value.

These are important changes and we are pleased that we have been able to rearrange the site layout to deliver these improvements.

Importantly, it shows the value of working constructively with our neighbours and other stakeholders to improve the project. The full list of changes is detailed in the Amendment Report which is available on the DPIE website (see box above).

Below: The proposed location for the site access has changed following feedback from the local community.



Protecting water on and around the McPhillamys site

It's fair to say that water is one of the key areas of concern for the McPhillamys Gold Project: for our project team and also for neighbours and other interested stakeholders.

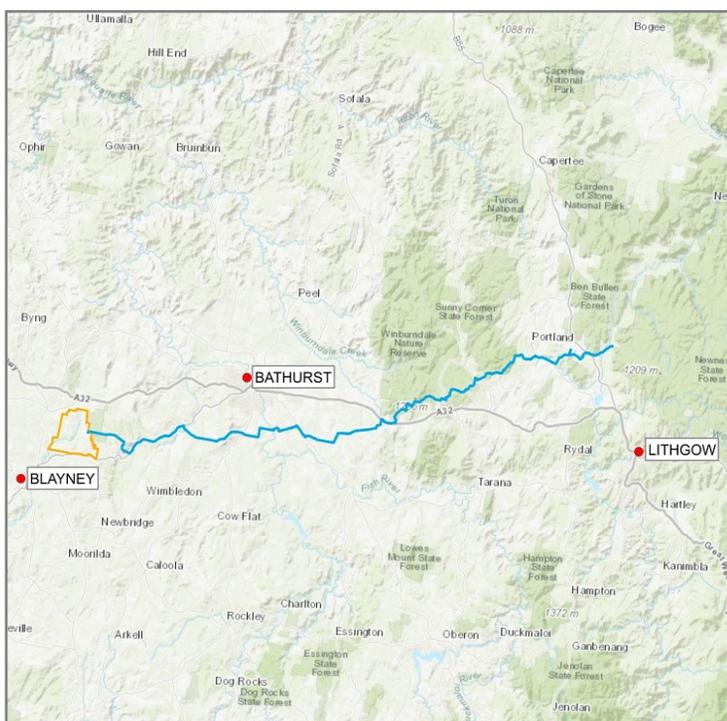
Over the past six years our local team and independent experts have spent a great deal of time reviewing the full range of water issues including:

- How we supply water for the project;
- How we manage clean water and process water onsite during operations; and
- How we make sure the project doesn't interfere with other local ground water or surface water—such as neighbouring bores and the Belubula River.

Bringing water to Blayney

Water for mining operations will be brought to Blayney via an underground pipeline from the Lithgow area. While the pipeline is being built, construction water for the project will be provided by bores on the McPhillamys property.

Below left: McPhillamys will supply water to the site via a 90km underground pipeline from the Lithgow area (concept route shown). Below right: While the pipeline is being built, construction water supplies will come from Regis' onsite bores.



Modelling indicates that no privately-owned bores will lose water as a result of the project.

No impact on neighbouring bores

Some of our neighbours said they were concerned that the mine could affect their bore water—so extensive modelling and studies were carried out on local bore systems.

Those studies indicate that the project will have no noticeable impact on the bores of our neighbours or other nearby landowners.

Protecting the Belubula

Regis recognises that landholders along the Belubula River rely on the river for their stock and domestic water. That's why we have invested heavily in surface water studies, to understand the river system and any potential impacts of the project.

Our water management systems will maximise clean water diversions so that the majority of clean water runoff will be diverted around the site and back into the Belubula system. The findings from the independent expert studies show that the project will have no noticeable impact on downstream water users.

Rehabilitation work during and after mining

Modern mining has a high standard for rehabilitation of mining areas and Regis adopts a best practice approach to ensuring those standards are met.

Rehabilitation plans must be developed and agreed to by the regulators before mining operations can even begin.

Modern best practice methods often require rehabilitation works to commence early in the life of the mine and continue well after mining has ceased.

At McPhillamys, rehabilitation will be continuous throughout the life of the project. The contouring and replanting of amenity bunds (large banks of soil and rock which provide a noise and visual screen from the mine) will happen in the first few years of the mine life.

After 11 years of mining operations there will be another three years of work to rehabilitate the site. That rehabilitation work will include:

- removal of buildings, concrete foundations, equipment and other infrastructure;
- remediation of any contaminated areas; and
- recontouring of landforms to form stable gradients—and replacement of topsoil to enable replanting of trees and other vegetation.

The final void (the open pit area) will be bunded and fenced off to prevent stock entry.



Above: (top) Concept image showing the existing landform on the site, looking east along the Mid Western Highway; and (below) concept image showing the same viewpoint with the final landform after mining and rehabilitation work has finished.

New water and power supplies: An opportunity for Blayney?

The McPhillamys Gold Project will provide all sorts of business and job opportunities during construction, mine operations and rehabilitation: but the opportunities are not just during the life of the mine.

Long after the mine is closed, the local area could benefit from important new infrastructure—such as power and water— that the mine will bring to Blayney.

Long term water supply to Blayney

A unique feature of the McPhillamys project is that water for operations will be provided via a 90km underground pipeline from the Lithgow area.

This will bring surplus water from the Centennial Mine and Energy Australia operations. The underground pipeline will have the capacity to carry an average of 13 megalitres a day to the site.

That's good news for Blayney because it means we don't need water from the local area. During construction, water will be provided from onsite bores.

Once mining has finished, the pipeline could play an important part in providing a more secure, long term supply of water to Blayney and the Central West.

Increasing the local power supply

The mine will also require a significant power supply which will be delivered via a new powerline, to be constructed by Regis. The power supply will also remain after the mine has closed, providing potential for further growth in Blayney and the shire.

This legacy of water and power infrastructure is one of the many benefits that the project could provide to Blayney and the Central West.



Left: The Regis Aziel property has areas of habitat which could provide a safe haven for koalas into the future and (above) Missy, the koala detection dog which found evidence of koalas at the property.

Improving and regenerating the land

Improving and regenerating the land owned by Regis is a constant focus for the McPhillamys Gold project.

We continue to do annual seed collecting on the site, including last month with the help of staff and interns from local training provider, Skillset Land Works.

Thousands of seeds were collected from species including Yellow Box, Apple Box, Red Stringy Bark and Broadleaf Peppermint. The seeds will be propagated by Skillset Land Works and Central Tablelands Landcare to provide some 8,000 seedlings for planting next year.

On our biodiversity offset property, Aziel (2km south of Blayney), we've been busy spraying tussock and weeds, repairing fencing and collecting native seeds for regrowth.

Aziel has large areas of undisturbed bush, some of which is suitable for koala habitat. Our plan is to improve the area by eradicating weeds, reducing erosion and planting more native trees. This will be carried out over the life of the project.

The benefits for native flora and fauna will be extensive and we look forward to making a difference in this way.



Clockwise from left: Tussock weed spraying at the Aziel property; Regis staff inspecting native tree lines planted at McPhillamys in 2014 (inset); and Regis staff repairing fences on the Aziel property.

Farming continues on Regis-owned properties

Farming is continuing on Regis-owned properties in the Blayney/ Kings Plains area and large areas of the land will not be directly impacted by mining operations.

For the majority of the area that is impacted, the change in land use will only be temporary, with extensive rehabilitation plans proposed to ensure that the land is suitable for agriculture after mining ceases.

Working with local farmers

For a number of years now, Regis has conducted a range of exploration activities, project studies and other project-related work on land covered by Regis exploration leases or owned outright by the company.

Local farmer Michael Parfett has leased land on and near the McPhillamys site for over 20 years. He currently runs his cattle operation on land covered by the leases, without any issues.

Michael said Regis and previous (mine) landowners had respected the needs and priorities of his farming operations whilst going about their business.

“We’ve been able to keep out of each other’s way and I haven’t had any issues with the cattle or anything else,” Michael said.

“It’s all about being good neighbours—if they stick with that approach, they’ll go alright.”

Minimising the impacts

Importantly, the project has been designed not to impact on any potential Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL).

The main impacts of the mine development include the removal of grazing livestock from disturbed land during the life of the mine and the reduced carrying capacity of some land after the mine development project area is rehabilitated.

After mining

When mining finishes, the pre-mining agricultural land-use will be restored across the majority of the mine development project area.

Of the approximately 1,116 ha to be disturbed by the mine, around only 6% will be permanently removed from agricultural production (that is the area covered by the open pit).

The main objectives of rehabilitation activities at the mine will be to:

- return disturbed land to a condition that is stable; and
- support the proposed post-mining land use, which is grazing on improved pasture in combination with some woodland areas.



Above: Local farmer Michael Parfett leases and runs black Angus cattle on Regis-owned land adjacent to the project site (pictured with Regis' Tony McPaul).

Below: Land drilled out for exploration in 2013 (top) was then recontoured and replanted for agricultural use, showing a very solid recovery by 2014 (bottom).



Meet your local CCC representatives

What inspires people to put their hand up for a seat on a community committee? We thought that would be a good question for McPhillamys Community Consultative Committee (CCC) members, Tom Williams and Cyril Smith, who we caught up with recently for a chat.

It all started with fish

Blayney residents will be very familiar with Tom Williams who has lived locally all his life, along with his wife, Betty. You'll often spot him at Carcoar Dam or wading through local streams where he carries out fish releases for the NSW Department of Fisheries.

His keen interest in the environment dates back to his younger years when he worked at a garage in Mandurama.

"When I was 15 my workmates conned me into coming with them to put some fish into the local stream," Tom said. "That was an eye opener and ever since then I've tried to leave the environment in better shape than I found it," he said.

Tom and Betty are both retired but he is kept busy by his membership of various local groups and his volunteer work at the Blayney Shire Visitor Information Centre. Tom can be contacted via email at: matey.williams@bigpond.com

Passionate about water

Cyril Smith lives in Orange and though retired, he's busier than ever with involvement in many local groups and three Orange City Council community advisory committees. His key focus is water, an interest he pursues with passion as the president of the Orange and Region Water Alliance.

"My interest in water security was aroused by the proposed Macquarie River to Orange pipeline project," Cyril said, "So it follows that my interest in the McPhillamys Project relates to the impact the project will have on water."

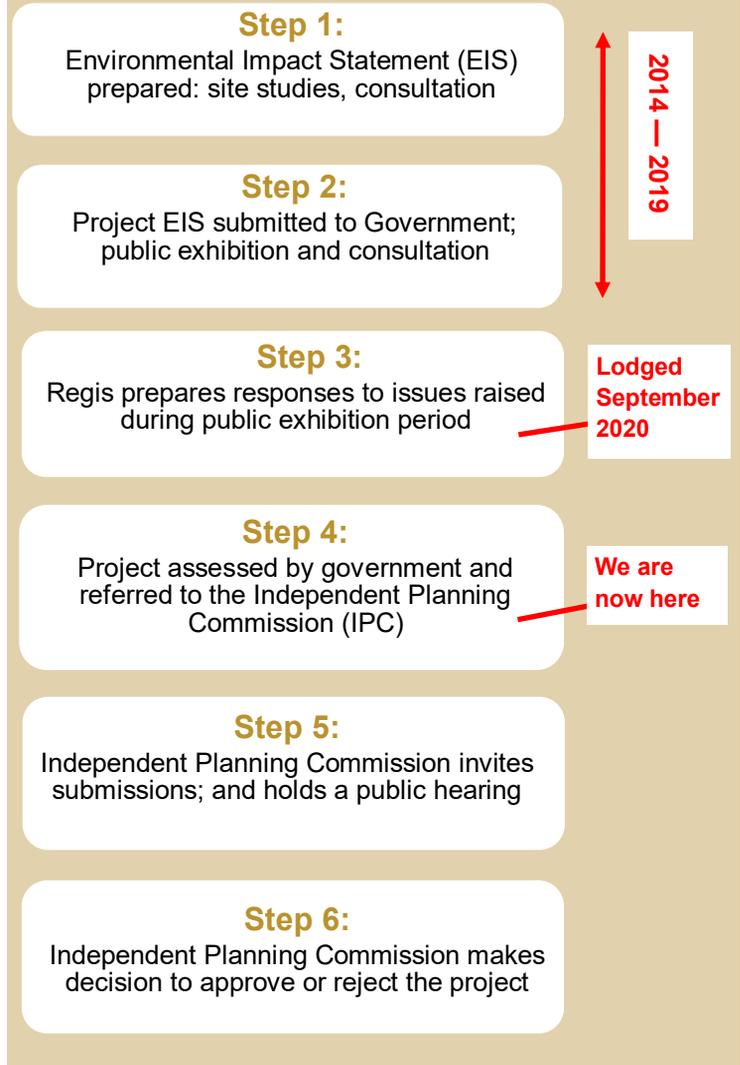
Cyril is looking forward to the release of the Response to Submissions and Amended Project Application and to following the progress of the project, particularly as it relates to water: "In the meantime, I will continue my advocacy for Water Sensitive Cities and making our townships more liveable," he said.

Below: CCC members Tom Williams (left) and Cyril Smith (right).



Where are we up to? What happens next?

Assessment Process



Stay up to date!

Register for McPhillamys Gold Project news and updates at:

www.mcphillamysgold.com

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