

McPhillamys Gold Project

Community Information Sheet No. 13

February 2021

100,000 trees to help improve local native habitat

Regis Resources will plant up to 100,000 native trees to improve and increase habitat for koalas and other wildlife in Blayney and the NSW Central West.

The tree planting program will be spread over the life of the McPhillamys Gold Project, if the project is approved.

Regis Resources Manager Special Projects, Tony McPaul said the tree planting program would significantly increase the local habitat suitable for koalas and other native wildlife.

“After extensive surveys of the McPhillamys site we have only located one koala, but there are still areas suitable for koala habitat within the project boundary,” Tony said.

Regis has already planted over 6,000 native trees and another 8,000 are being prepared for planting in 2021.

“If the project is approved we will continue planting during the life of the mine and in post-mining rehabilitation, adding up to 100,000 trees to the local area.

“We have gone to great lengths to minimise disruption to all habitat areas and we are very focused on delivering long term habitat improvements for local wildlife,” he said.

To help offset the biodiversity impacts of the project Regis has also purchased a property (Aziel) which will permanently preserve, large areas of koala habitat.



Top right: Danielle Wallace (Regis) and Sue Wakefield (Landcare) inspecting native trees growing at the Landcare nursery in Bathurst. These will be planted in 2021. **Bottom right:** 2020 progress photo showing significant growth of native trees planted (at McPhillamys) in 2014.

Happy New Year...

After the challenges of 2020, most of them related to life being upended by the Coronavirus, we're all looking forward to a better, calmer year ahead. We're also looking forward to 2021 bringing a decision on the application for the McPhillamys Gold Project.

After years of investigations, research, consultation and planning, the project is now being assessed by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) before being sent to the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) this year, for a determination.

The uncertainty has not been easy for any of us, especially our neighbours and we appreciate the patience and understanding they have shown throughout the application process.



Locals keen to see jobs and growth

Support for growth, opportunities and prosperity are the key themes raised by local people appearing in a new video, *Local Voices*, recently released by Regis Resources.

When asked about his support for the McPhillamys Gold Project, local businessman, farmer and long-term Blayney resident Roger Hamer said it would bring benefits including employment, business and population growth.

"I just think it's a good thing for the town - it's vital," Roger said.

The video also features local business owner Phil Ryan, former Blayney High School teacher,

Rachel Croft, Regis employee Stacey McFawn and local resident Tim Warwick.

Regis Resources Manager Special Projects, Tony McPaul said the video provided an opportunity for local people who support the project to share their views.

"There is a lot of support for the project and voices which are often not heard—these people were happy to speak about the project and the benefits it will bring to Blayney," Tony said.

Blayney resident and new dad, Tim Warwick, supports the project because of the career opportunities

it will provide: "It would be good for kids leaving school to not have to leave the town," he said.

Lyndhurst resident and Regis employee, Stacey McFawn also believes the project would be good for locals.

"This a great place to raise a family but it's a shame that so many people have to leave town to look for work," Stacey said.

"McPhillamys would provide more jobs closer to home," she said.

The video can be viewed on the McPhillamys Gold Project website at: www.mcphillamysgold.com



L-R:
Residents who feature in the new *Local Voices* video: Stacey McFawn, Roger Hamer, Phil Ryan, Rachel Croft, Tim Warwick and son, Freddie.

McPhillamys Gold Project Planning Agreement:

How McPhillamys Gold Project will help build local infrastructure

Projects such as McPhillamys can bring many benefits to rural and regional communities including new jobs, business opportunities, population growth and new local services.

Another advantage is the upgrade of local infrastructure and services, funded by the developer—in this case, Regis Resources.

If the McPhillamys Gold Project is approved, Regis will be required to make a contribution to the Blayney Shire Council (in addition to our normal Council rates and fees) to fund projects in the Shire.

This will be done through a Planning Agreement (PA) between Regis and the Council, which was considered at the November 2020 Council meeting.



Members of the community were also invited to review and comment on the Planning Agreement which was on public exhibition for 28 days. The Planning Agreement documents are available for viewing in the November 2020 Council Meeting business papers: <https://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au>

In brief, the draft PA requires Regis to pay one percent of the estimated total capital cost of the project, to Blayney Council.

The payment would be made in installments with an upfront contribution of one million dollars.

This would be followed by annual payments of \$212,222 (subject to CPI or two percent adjustment whichever is greater after the first annual payment).



(Left) L-R: Blayney High School staff and students, Regis and Land Works staff; (Above) Students, Ellie McGovern and Isabella Markham.

Blayney students get hands-on with land management

Blayney High School students got out of the classroom for some hands-on experience in December, studying land management at the Regis property Aziel, south of Blayney.

Regis and Skillset Land Works hosted the event for 33 students from Years 9 and 10, focusing on biodiversity, water, soils and land management.

Blayney High Agriculture teachers Rachel Croft and Ken Jones guided the students through

activities including soil and water testing and flora and fauna surveys.

According to Rachel, nothing beats getting out and doing some hands-on learning: "The students had a great day and they especially enjoyed the biodiversity surveys, looking at all the different flora and fauna.

"They really got a lot out of that," Rachel said.

The excursion also included demonstrations by Land Works

staff and discussions about working in land management.

Land Works Operations Manager, Graham Stirling said the activities were a great way to promote discussion about the environment as well as the career options available in that area.

"Skillset Land Works offers a range of services including access to apprenticeships and traineeships and we had some great chats with the students about those opportunities," Graham said.

Funding support for Blayney charities and community groups

The Blayney Shire is fortunate to have a number of local groups and organisations who do a lot to lift community spirit and assist those who need a hand.

Their fundraising has been limited due to COVID 19 and they are working hard to adjust to the times.

Regis is pleased to offer support to a number of those groups with donations for their activities planned for 2021.

Donations have been made to:

- **St Vincent de Paul, Blayney**
- **Blayney Markets Rotary**
- **Blayney Public School**
- **Blayney High School**
- **Blayney Meals on Wheels**
- **Can Assist Network, Blayney**

and

- **Central Tablelands Landcare.**

These organisations, their staff and their volunteers contribute a great deal towards making Blayney the great town that it is.

The past year has been a tough one in many ways, but organisations like these have continued to provide help and support where it's needed.

Let's hope that 2021 will see us getting on top of COVID 19 and community organisations getting back to normal.

Meet your 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. In this edition we chat to Peter Hildenbeutel and Elizabeth Russ.

A dedicated volunteer

Elizabeth Russ was a good choice to represent the community on the CCC, being a dedicated and active resident who volunteers for many local groups: "I love my community and I enjoy being a part of the organisations who contribute so much," Elizabeth said.

Elizabeth and husband Bob live in Kings Plains in the house she grew up in, which was built by her grandfather in 1918. With her long family connection to the area Elizabeth has taken a strong interest in the McPhillamys project. She joined the CCC so she could keep up to date and help others in the community to access and understand information about the project.

"I'm always happy to ask the questions that people want and need to know," she said. Elizabeth can be contacted by email: elizabeth.russ@hotmail.com or ph: 0408 682 122.

Opportunities for young people

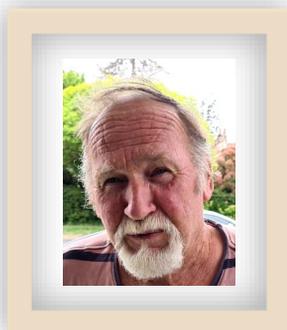
Peter Hildenbeutel is always on the lookout for new opportunities for Blayney, especially to help young people. A local resident of 45 years, Peter Hildenbeutel's work as a builder has taken him to many local homes and businesses: "Over the years I've probably worked on every second or third house in the town, at some point!" Peter said.

As a former Councillor Peter was part of the effort to bring new businesses such as Friskies, to the area. "We need growth and jobs and apprenticeship opportunities for young people," he said.

When he's not at work or enjoying life on his hobby farm just out of town, Peter is often out panning for gold at various spots around the district. "It's a great hobby and a fun day out."

Peter put his hand up for the CCC in order to find out more about the project and help others to get accurate information as the project developed. For CCC matters you can contact Peter on his mobile: 0419 417 895.

Below: Elizabeth Russ (left) and Peter Hildenbeutel (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 and we'll take your details over the phone: (02) 6368 4100