

# McPhillamys Gold Project

Community Information Sheet No.7

August 2019

## 4,400 native trees planted at McPhillamys

**Trainees and interns from Skillset Land Works have planted thousands of native trees and shrubs on the McPhillamys site as part of a program to link fragmented woodland habitats around the site.**

Regis Manager Special Projects, Tony McPaul said approx. 4,400 trees were planted in July, in Stage Two of a ten-year program proposed for McPhillamys.

“The aim is to link existing native tree and wildlife habitats and provide visual screens for neighbours and surrounding landowners,” Tony said.

Regis was pleased to undertake the work with training organisation Skillset, providing land management and conservation skills for interns and trainees.

Once the tree corridors were finished, surplus trees were offered to McPhillamys neighbours and Kings Plains residents.

“Almost 1,000 tube stock trees and shrubs were left over so we decided to give them to our neighbours and local landholders,” Tony said.

Future stages of the tree planting program will be determined by onsite activities, pending approval of the McPhillamys project.

*Right: McPhillamys native tree corridors (above) and the Skillset Land Works crew onsite at McPhillamys (below)*



## Development Application submitted to NSW Government

The State Significant Development Application (SSDA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for McPhillamys Gold Project were submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in July.

### *What happens next?*

The DPIE will now review the application and EIS before setting a date for them to go on public exhibition for a minimum of 42 days.

The lodgement of the DA and EIS marks the next step in the assessment process which will also

involve further stakeholder consultation. This will include Government agency and peer reviews of the project information; and public meetings hosted by DPIE.

Regis will also be holding another series of Community Open Days, to coincide with the exhibition period. Face to face meetings with site neighbours, landowners and other stakeholders will also continue. The development application can be viewed on the DPIE website, via this link:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/9821>

## Medicine, technology, cars and space: the many uses of gold

Most of us know about jewellery or gold bars as a store of wealth, but gold is also used widely in medicine, space and all sorts of everyday technology.

### *Mobiles and computers*

Because it is so hardy and a very good conductor of electricity, gold is perfect for wiring and is used in everything from mobile phones and computers to protective clothing and equipment for astronauts.

Another interesting new development is the use of gold in the circuitry of safety air bags in motor vehicles.

### *Using gold to detect cancer*

One of the most exciting new uses of gold is its role in detecting cancer.

A team at the University of Queensland's Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nano-technology (AIBN) is currently using gold to develop a rapid cancer detection test.

Follow this link for the full story:

<https://aibn.uq.edu.au/article/2018/12/universal-dna-nano-signature-cancer>



### *Geoscience Australia*

These are just some of the current uses of gold and there are many more.

If you'd like to know more about the uses and production of gold, try Geoscience Australia (GA). The GA website has a wide range of resources:

<https://www.ga.gov.au/education>

## Regis sponsorship: food, wine and fireworks

Congratulations to the Millthorpe Village Committee, Orange 360, event organisers and volunteers on the success of the recent Millthorpe Night Market.

Regis was pleased to sponsor the event which attracted over 4,000 visitors and locals.

Guests gathered around fires in Millthorpe's Pym Street for a night of live music, great local food and wine and an impressive fireworks display.

### *Supporting local tourism*

The event is one of many in the Blayney Shire that make an important contribution to the local economy. Now in its second year, the Market attracts many visitors to the area, as well as being a fun night out for locals.

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## Local land proposed for conservation ‘offsets’

Approximately 730 acres of box gum woodland and grassland could be protected and managed permanently, as a contribution to native woodland ‘offsets’ if the McPhillamys Gold Project proceeds.

Part of the Aziel West property, located 2km south of Blayney, is proposed by Regis as an offset contribution for land that would be disturbed by mining operations at McPhillamys.

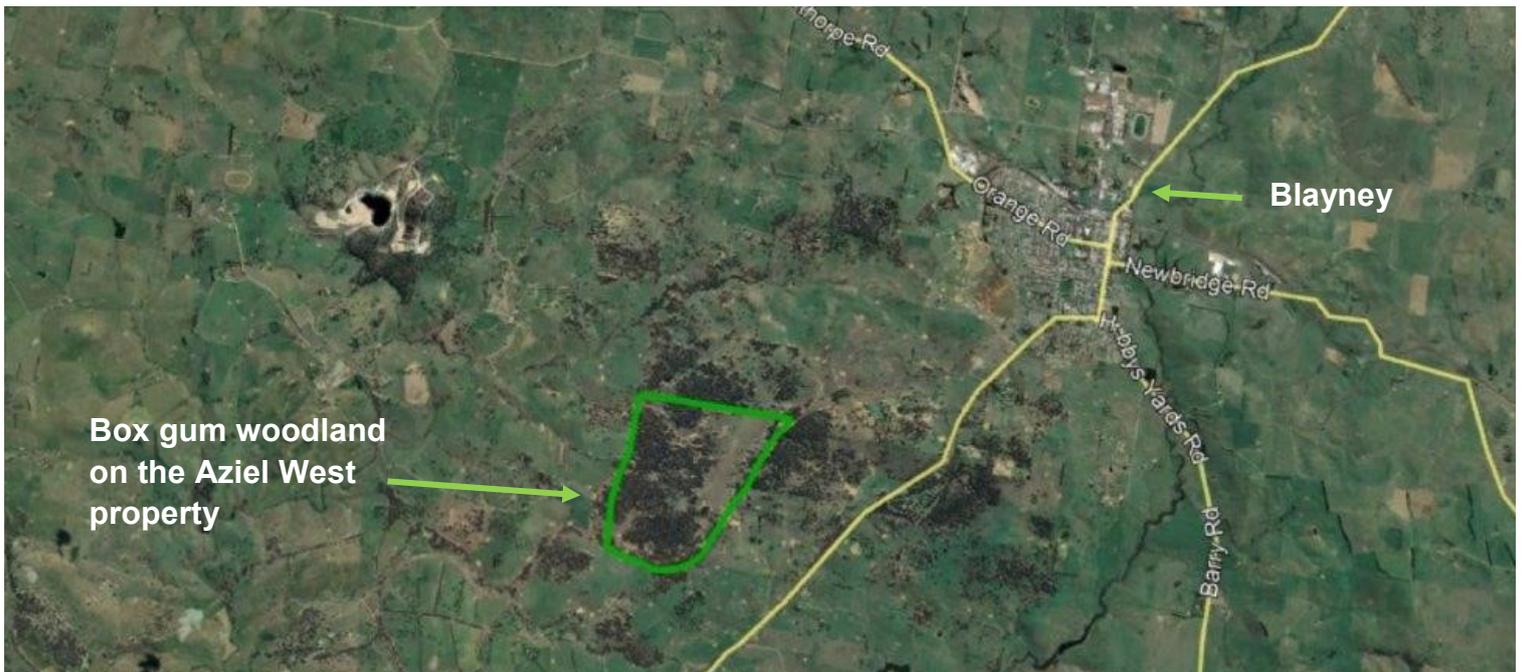
Regis Manager Special Projects, Tony McPaul, said the property would be protected and managed under a biodiversity stewardship agreement.

“Regis is pleased to have secured Aziel West to assist with the project’s conservation offsets,” Tony said.

The requirements for offsets (including land) would be determined by the regulator if and when the McPhillamys project goes ahead.

The aim is to improve even further the condition of native vegetation and its habitat value on offset land. This can be achieved by tree planting, managing grazing for conservation and weed and pest control.

*Below: Box gum woodland areas on Aziel West could form part of the McPhillamys offset plan.*



## Measuring water flow and quality on the Belubula River

The first round of surveys has been completed on stretches of the Belubula River downstream of the McPhillamys site. The surveys were carried out on the properties of five neighbours to the south of the site, during July and August.

The aim of the monitoring is to improve local understanding of the flow of the Belubula River (e.g. when it flows, when it dries up); the location of springs; and the water quality of springs and bores.

Survey results will be shared with the participating landowners along the river and a second round will be carried out later in 2019.

For more information on water monitoring or any other aspect of the project, please call our Stakeholder Engagement Officer, Chris Roach (ph 0416 745 699).

*Below: Regis is continuing to monitoring water flow and quality along the Belubula River, on and off the McPhillamys site.*



## New faces on the team...

Regis recently welcomed two new staff members to the McPhillamys team: Ben Anderson and Louise Hobby.

Ben, a farmer and environmental scientist from Crookwell, has joined the team to work on environmental aspects of the project. He will fill in for Jess Grivas who will go on maternity leave in the near future.

Louise is a lifelong Blayney local, so she will be well known to many people. You may already have bumped into her at our Farmers' Market Stall. Louise is working on community information, events and administration.



Ben Anderson (left) and Louise Hobby (right), have recently joined the McPhillamys Gold Project team.

### Strong interest in jobs

We regularly hear from locals who are interested in jobs, training and business opportunities on the project — for themselves and for their families.

It will be at least 12-18 months before we have a decision on the project application so it is too early to be talking specifics at this stage.

However, we do have a mailing list for anyone interested in following our progress (see below for details).

### Stay up to date!

Register for McPhillamys Project news and updates at:  
[www.mcphillamysgold.com](http://www.mcphillamysgold.com)

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

## McPhillamys CCC:

### Your representatives, your voice

The McPhillamys Community Consultative Committee (CCC) met again in July, giving residents and community representatives the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to the Regis team.

CCC membership includes representatives from the Kings Plains and Blayney communities; local interest groups; Blayney, Bathurst and Cabonne Councils; and Regis staff.

CCC members are there to represent community views so feel free to contact them (details are on the McPhillamys website) with any questions or comments you would like raised at the meetings.

CCC meeting minutes are also a good source of information about the project. You can find them at: <http://www.mcphillamysgold.com/mcphillamys/community>

### McPhillamys Project Assessment Process

#### Step 1:

Studies carried out by independent experts

#### Step 2:

Project team examines the impacts and issues

#### Step 3:

Design finalised and results shared with our neighbours and other impacted parties

#### Step 4:

Project submitted to NSW Government

#### Step 5:

Project goes on public exhibition: community consultation

#### Step 6:

Project decided by Government or sent to an independent body for final decision

↑  
2018-19  
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**We are here**

**This is the next step**