

McPhillamys Gold Project

#13 Visual impacts

The McPhillamys Gold Project is being developed to meet the very high standards set down by NSW Government legislation and environment protection laws.

What are visual impacts?

Visual impacts describe how the project will change the look of the McPhillamys site and how that will affect views, particularly for neighbours or people driving past the site.

The main impacts will be from the start of construction until (approximately) Year 6, when an embankment on the southern side of the site (called the southern amenity bund) will be completed and progressively planted with grass and trees.

The mine schedule has been arranged to construct the southern amenity bund as quickly as practicable to shield residences and highway users from visual and noise impacts, for the remainder of operations.

After Year 6, visual impacts will begin to gradually reduce as the new landforms are built and planted with grass and trees to blend in with the surrounding rural landscape.

How visual impacts are measured

A visual impact assessment was carried out across a 232km² area around the mine site. This looked at both temporary and permanent changes to the landscape, and light emissions from the development.

Visual impacts on nearby properties and roads were modelled using photos of the current site and then doing photographic simulations of how those views would change over the life of the mine, and the final landform after the mine has closed.

Minimising visual impacts

After looking at the visual impacts a number of changes were made to the project layout. These include moving plant, equipment and buildings further away from the Mid Western Highway and Kings Plains.

Overall, our plan is to locate mining operations and infrastructure as far from as many residences as practical.

The plan is to mine the open pit and build the southern amenity bund to provide a screen between the mine and its neighbours. The site access road and intersection with the Mid Western Highway are also located for minimal visual impact.

Progressive rehabilitation and tree planting to improve views

Visual impacts will also be reduced by making an early start on rehabilitating the waste rock emplacement area. By shaping and sowing the area with grass and trees it will blend with the surrounding landscape and provide a natural buffer; and add to the screening provided by tree corridors already planted across parts of the site.

The waste rock area will be progressively rehabilitated to create cover crops and longer-term grass cover that will match existing grasslands. It will be shaped and planted to reflect the more natural existing landforms.

Minimising light emissions

During construction and operation, light emissions will comply with Australian Standards. Vehicle routes have been planned to minimize direct light emissions.

Additional measures will include considered positioning and shielding of lights, using energy and sensor lighting when possible, restricting night-time lighting and using warm-coloured lights.

Working with neighbours

Regis is already working with neighbours to develop measures to minimize the impact on individual properties: this includes tree planting or other types of screening which Regis will provide. Regis will develop individual plans in consultation with affected landholders. With appropriate approvals, roadside trees will also be planted along the Mid Western Highway, Walkom Road and parts of Guyong Road.

Underground pipeline

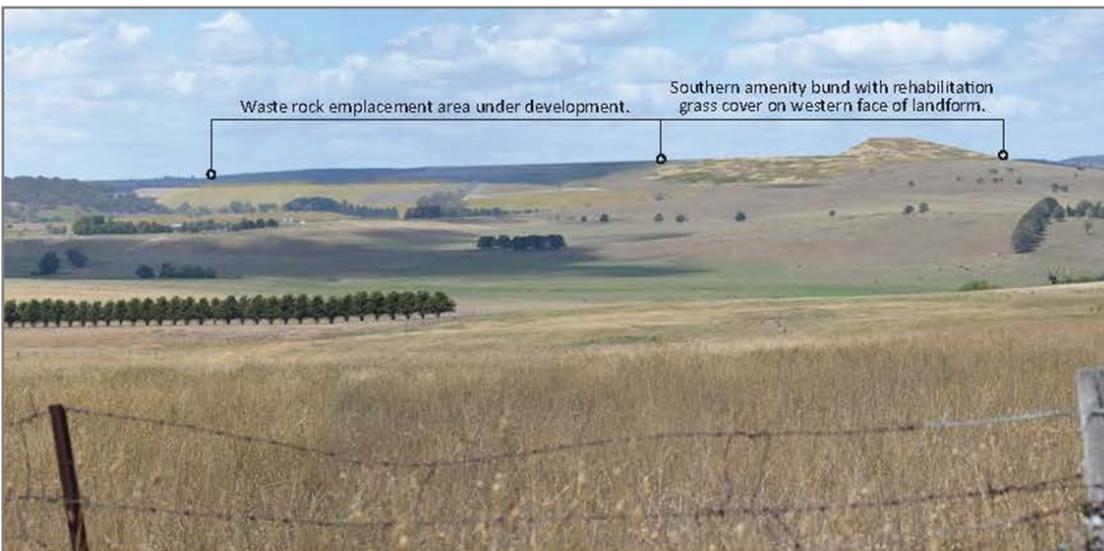
The water supply pipeline (from Lithgow) will be underground so visual impacts from it will be very limited. Pumping stations, pressure reducing systems and valves will be visible above-ground.

How the project will look from a point on Guyong Road



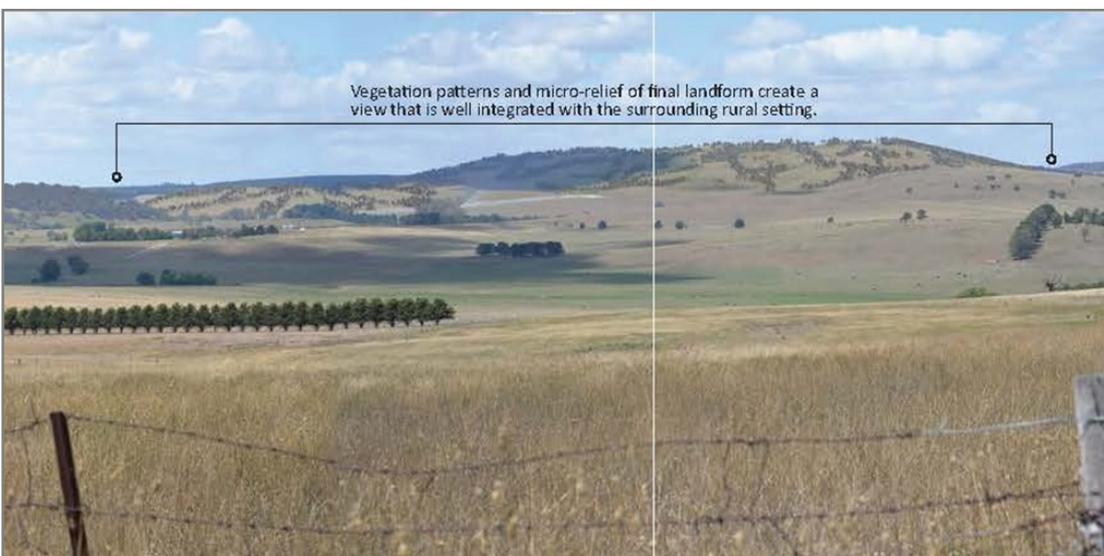
Left: VP1

This is the **current view** from Guyong Road, looking east towards the McPhillamys western boundary.



Left: VP1

This is the (artist impression) view from Guyong Road, **in Year 6** of the mine project, looking east towards the McPhillamys western boundary.



Left: VP1

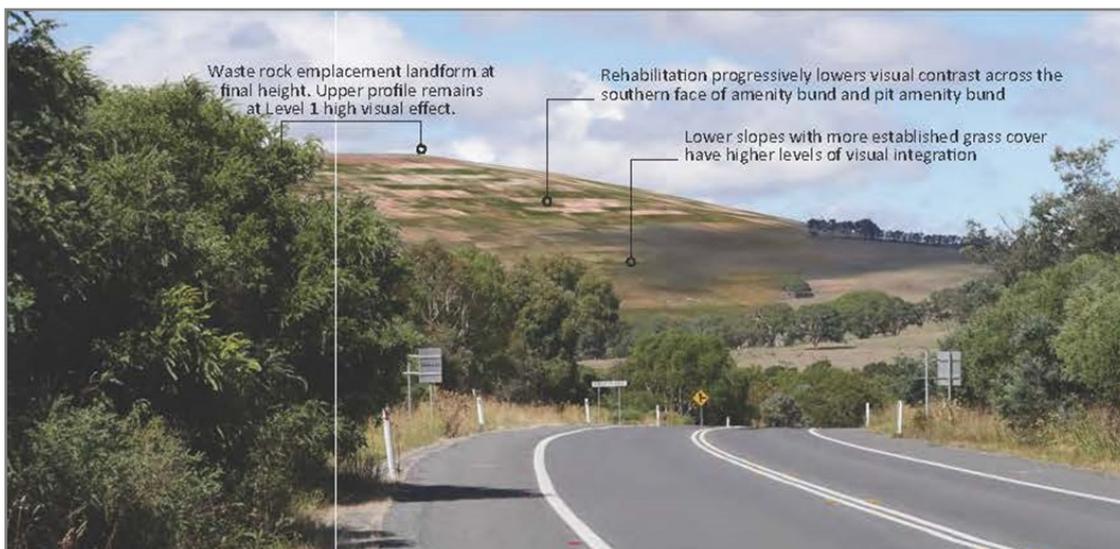
This (artist impression) view from Guyong Road shows what the **final landform** will look like after the mine has closed and rehabilitation is completed, looking east towards the McPhillamys western boundary.

How the project will look from the Mid Western Highway



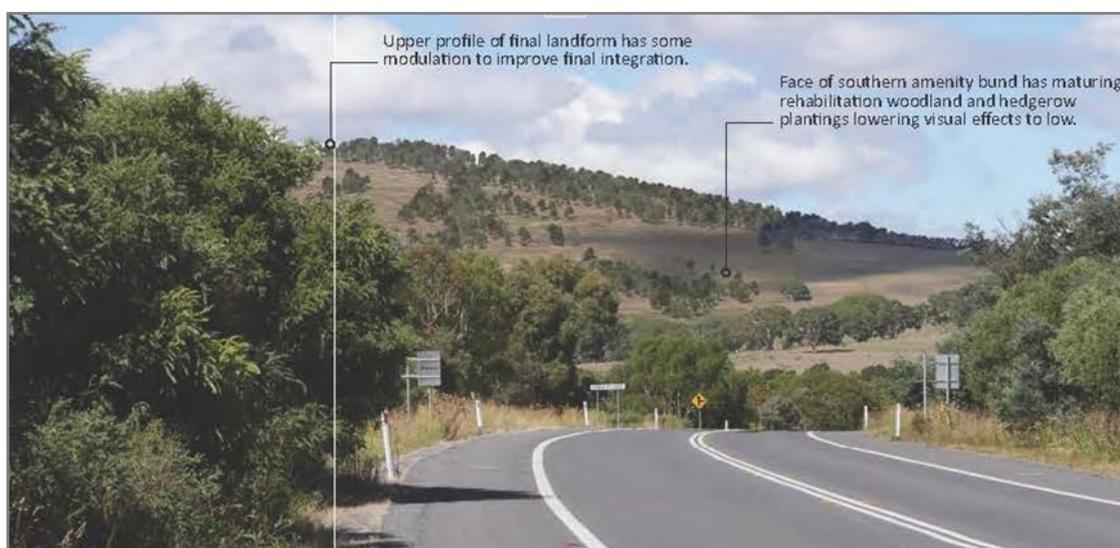
Left: VP2

This is the **current view**, looking east towards McPhillamys from the Mid Western Highway.



Left: VP2

This (artist impression) view shows what the landform will look like in Year 6 of the mine project, looking east towards McPhillamys, from the Mid Western Highway.



Left: VP2

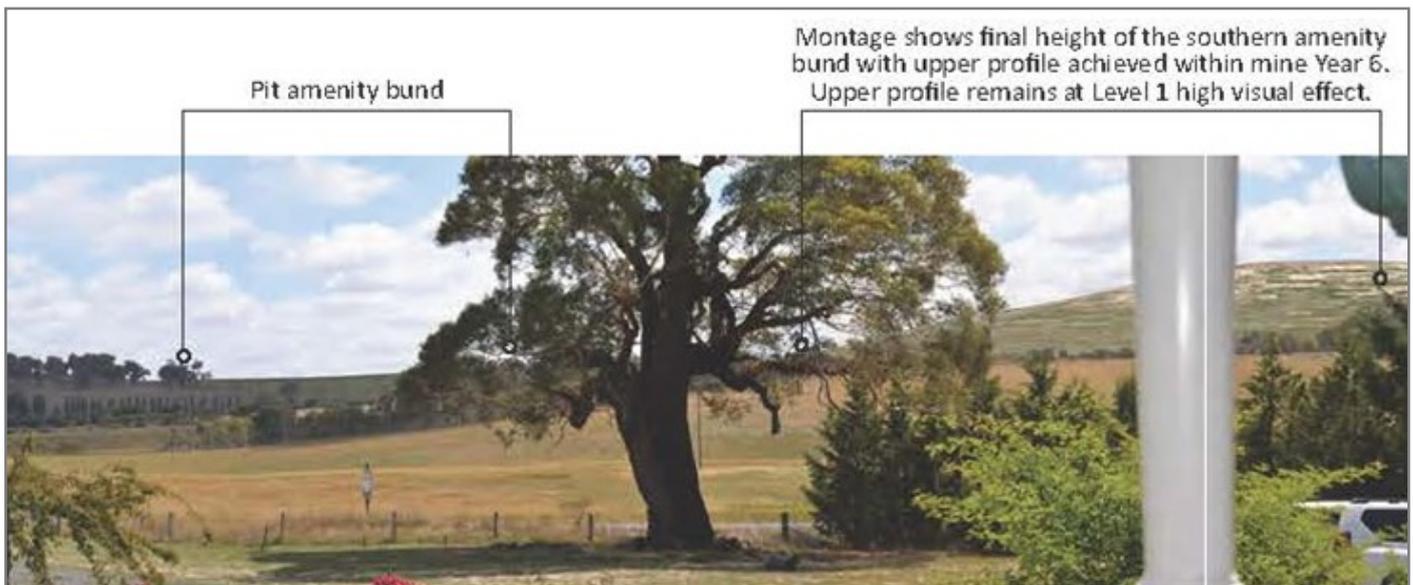
This (artist impression) view shows what the **final landform** will look like after the mine is closed and rehabilitation is completed looking east towards McPhillamys, from the Mid Western Highway.

How the project will look from Kings Plains

Below: VP3 -The **current view** from a residence in Kings Plains, looking north towards the McPhillamys southern boundary.



Below: VP3 -The view (artist impression) from a residence in Kings Plains, **in Year 6** of the project, looking north towards the McPhillamys southern boundary.



Below: VP3 - The view (artist impression) from a Kings Plains residence showing the **final landform** (after rehabilitation is completed), looking north towards the McPhillamys southern boundary.

