

#7 Monitoring local rivers and bores

The McPhillamys Gold Project is being developed to meet the very high standards set down by NSW Government legislation and environment protection laws. Protecting local water is a key focus for the project.

Since 2014, Regis has been monitoring surface water and groundwater on and around the mine project area to provide a sound understanding of local conditions. This includes the Belubula River on the McPhillamys site and downstream, as well as the bores of neighbouring properties. All water samples are sent to an independent laboratory for testing.

Surface water monitoring

- Our monitoring involves monthly water quality analysis of the Belubula River, testing for things like salt, sulphate, arsenic, cadmium, iron, zinc, nitrogen, phosphorus and cyanide.
- Baseline monitoring indicates that the existing water quality has elevated levels of iron, zinc, nitrogen and phosphorus.
- Existing water quality also reveals elevated levels of salinity, at times.
- Regis has also installed flow gauges including a 'v-notch' weir downstream of the proposed mine, to measure stream flow.
- More flow monitoring stations are planned for the future, subject to consultation with landowners and government regulators.

Groundwater monitoring

- Groundwater monitoring is carried out on bores across the project site and on neighbouring properties.
- We focus on potentially sensitive areas such as groundwater dependent ecosystems and areas of potential interaction between surface water and groundwater.
- The monitoring collects water levels and water quality data so we can analyse salinity, major ions, dissolved metals, nutrients and hydrocarbons.
- Bore monitoring will continue once operations commence, including downstream of the tailings storage facility and waste rock emplacement area.

Below: Groundwater (left) and surface water (right) quality is monitored on and around the McPhillamys site.

