

Community Consultative Committee Details

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| CCC / Project Name: | McPhillamys Gold Project | Reporting Period: | 2019 & 2020 |
| Independent Chairperson: | David Johnson | Proponent Contact: | Tony McPaul |

1. Executive Summary

The McPhillamys Gold Mine project is a proposal for an open-cut gold mine 9 km north-east of Blayney in the Central West of NSW. The proponent, Regis Resources has undertaken a range of studies over several years, and submitted the Development Application and EIS in July 2019.

The project site is close to a number of small rural residential properties at Kings Plains as well as some larger rural holdings on primarily agricultural land. It is mostly within Blayney Shire, but partly in Cabonne Shire. The proposal also includes a new water supply pipeline to bring treated mine water from near Wallerawang, some 90 km to the east, and which is largely within Bathurst City Council.

The CCC was established at the end of 2018 and comprises community and stakeholder members (and two alternates) as well as representatives of the three councils and the proponent.

The major issues of concern to the local community include;

- Visual impacts
- Noise, blasting and air quality
- Impacts on water resources and water quality (particularly in the Belubula River)
- Effects on residential amenity and property values
- Rehabilitation and final landform
- Employment and other benefits to the Blayney district

The past two years has been a period of intense interest and of concern to many local residents, with a number of public meetings, open days and information sessions by the proponent, briefings by the Dept of Planning and consultants, and numerous consultations between the proponent and local landholders.

This period has corresponded with heightened activity in the planning and approval process, and regular updates have been provided to the CCC regarding the process and expected timings for each step. This has been aided by attendance at some meetings by representatives of the Dept of Planning, Industry & Environment.

The proponent's Amendment Report and Response to Submissions was lodged with the Department in September 2020 and the Department has been assessing the project. It is expected that it will be determined by the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) in the first half of 2021, with a Public Hearing to be held by the IPC

2. CCC activities over last 2 years

The CCC has met every 2 to 3 months, particularly during important stages in the planning and approvals process. Some meetings during 2020 were held in part by video conference due to Covid restrictions, though most members agreed that in-person meetings were preferred. A site tour of the proposed mine site and surrounds was held prior to the meeting in May 2019. On some occasions the proponent invited various consultants to present to the committee and to answer questions.

Attendance at CCC meetings has been very high, with only a small number of apologies on any occasion. No joint CCC meetings were held, nor are appropriate for this project.

On most occasions, multiple questions were submitted by community members relating to various aspects of the proposed mine operations and its likely impacts. A procedure was adopted where members are requested to submit questions at least one week in advance of a meeting, so the proponent can make any necessary enquiries and provide answers for the meeting. This process has worked well.

One community member resigned from the CCC in late 2020 and was replaced by an existing alternate member.

3. Key issues

| Issue | Actions Taken | Next Steps/Outcomes |
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| Assessment of key amenity impacts including noise, dust, visibility, blasting, water etc | Many detailed questions have been raised by community reps regarding expected impacts and mitigation measures proposed | The proponent provided answers wherever possible and made their consultants available to concerned residents to provide answers. The process is on-going. |
| The planning & approval process and time frames | A frequent concern of community members is the frustration of not knowing how long the determination process will take and the extended timing for each step | Both the proponent and the Dept reps have attempted to provide estimates of the times required for each stage in the process, but it is acknowledged that it is often not possible and time frames blow out |
| Likelihood of other nearby ore-bodies being found, leading to an extended life for the ore processing operations at the site | Some members expressed concern that Regis are proposing to extend the operations at McPhillamys beyond the stated 10-15 year life by importing ore from other prospective sites in the area (such as at Discovery Ridge) | Regis said this could not be totally discounted, but the current proposal is just to mine and process the ore at McPhillamys. Any change to that or extension to the approved mine would require a totally new DA and approval process in the future. |


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| Negotiations with nearby residents for mitigation of impacts, compensation or possible acquisition | Consultations have commenced with landowners at Kings Plains and are also well advanced for landowners along the water pipeline route from Wallerawang | Agreements with owners are expected to be finalized prior to approval being granted. This is a priority for 2021 |
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4. Focus for next 12 months

The next 12 months (2021) will be a busy period and is expected to cover the final stages in the project determination process, leading either to approval or refusal of the application. It will include the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) process, including a public hearing (probably in Blayney) and therefore further opportunities for submissions and presentations by the public to the IPC panel.

Other emerging issues and activities will include:

- Finalisation of the Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with Blayney Council (if the project approval is granted);
- Continuation of negotiations between Regis and nearby landowners regarding mitigation of impacts, compensation and possible acquisition of properties (subject to the project being approved);
- Consultations with various agencies and groups will continue, including Aboriginal Cultural Heritage bodies and local aboriginal communities.

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| Signature of Chair: |  |
| Date: | 28 February 2021 |