

McPhillamys Gold Project CCC Minutes

Title	McPhillamys Gold Project Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting	
Meeting Date	22 July 2019 @ 6pm	
Venue	Blayney Community Centre- 91 Adelaide Street, Blayney NSW	
Chair	David Johnson	Independent Chairperson
Meeting Attendees	Elizabeth Russ	Community Representative
	Miles Hedge	Community Representative
	Evan Leitch	Community Representative
	Peter Hildenbeutel	Community Representative
	Jim Newman	Community Representative
	Bob Russ	Alternate Community Representative
	Tom Williams	Alternate Community Representative
	Daniel Sutton	BHPG Representative
	Cyril Smith	ORWSA Representative
	Rebecca Ryan	Blayney Council
	Heather Nicholls	Cabonne Council
	Stephen O'Donoghue	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE)
	Rod Smith	Regis Resources
	Tony McPaul	Regis Resources
	Andrew Wannan	Regis Resources
	Chris Roach	Regis Resources Alternate
	Stacey McFawn	Minutes
Apologies	Graham Hanger	Bathurst Council Mayor
Next Meeting	23 rd September 2019 @ 6.00pm (To be confirmed; alternatively 30 th September) Blayney Community Centre 91 Adelaide Street, Blayney NSW	

MEETING WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - David Johnson

Meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Apologies for the meeting tendered for Graham Hanger.

Introduction by David Johnson:

- No declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary Interest to declare.
- Stephen O'Donoghue from Dept PIE was welcomed and thanked for attending.
- Issue raised regarding the supplementary questions and answers from the May CCC meeting not being published on the McPhillamys website with the CCC minutes.
Regis agreed to rectify this.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – David Johnson

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved by the Community Consultative Committee as being read and correct.
- No previous notifications.

CORRESPONDENCE

- No correspondence.
- Tony McPaul emailed CCC members on 28th May asking if they were happy to have their contact details published on the McPhillamys website. All but one member responded positively.

REGIS RESOURCES MCPHILLAMYS GOLD PROJECT UPDATE

- PowerPoint presentation by Tony McPaul as follows. (Copy to be placed on McPhillamys website)
Overview/EIS
 - The State Significant Development Application (SSDA) was lodged with Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) last week.
 - DPIE will review the EIS before advising the date for public exhibition.
 - Minor project boundary mapping error in the Community Information Sheet No 6 has been corrected.
 - Regis is a major sponsor for the Milthorpe Fire Festival, 2nd August 2019.
 - Stage 2 tree planting has commenced on the McPhillamys site; Skillset have been employed to do the tree planting.
 - A Public Notice for the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) has been provided to the local print media.

Pipeline

- The pipeline route has not changed.
- All landholders along the pipeline route have agreed in principle to the proposed route.

Questions & Answers from the CCC Meeting:

- Q. What is the volume of material in the EIS? *(Evan Leitch)*
- A. Approximately 2,000 pages including the appendices. *(Andrew Wannan)*
- Q. What are the criteria for noise in Kings Plains? *(Miles Hedge)*
- A. Andrew Wannan explained the project's dB limits for day, evening and night.
- Q. Are these modelled numbers or measured? *(Evan Leitch)*
- A. Noise impacts are modelled, based on proposed mine operations and current background levels measured at representative locations. These numbers take into account climatic conditions and 3-dimensional stage plans for mine development.
- Q. Will Regis be monitoring the noise at McPhillamys? *(Evan Leitch)*
- A. Yes.
- Q. Could you please give examples of climatic conditions? *(Elizabeth Russ)*
- A. Andrew explained examples as being wind speed and temperature inversions. He also confirmed that there is a weather station on site.
- Q. The meaning of weather conditions versus climatic conditions. *(Cyril Smith)*
- A. Accepted that climatic conditions (based on long-term weather records) have been applied to modelling, and local weather conditions may have a bearing on impacts at any time. *(Andrew Wannan)*
- Q. Will the 16 properties in Kings Plains have a noise monitor installed? *(Miles Hedge)*
- A. Not at each house, monitors will be installed to give adequate coverage. *(Tony McPaul/Andrew Wannan)*
- Q. What are the options for Regis if the pipeline contains poor quality water and it is shut down? *(Daniel Sutton)*
- A. There will be a site dam that contains approximately 2 weeks supply of water. *(Tony McPaul)*
- Q. What will happen to the poor quality water in the pipe? *(Cyril Smith)*
- A. The water will be rejected at the start of the pipeline. *(Tony McPaul)*

Other Agenda Items

Peter Hildenbeutel spoke about the current poor condition of the Belubula River at and near to his property and also provided a list of questions prior to the meeting, Tony McPaul read out the questions and answers as per below:

- Q. How does the rehabilitation of the mine site work and how is the community protected in the form of rehabilitation bonds, etc?
- A. An approved mine is required to operate in accordance with a mining lease. A standard condition of a mining lease includes requirements for mining activities to be undertaken in accordance with a mining operations plan (MOP) which also includes scheduled rehabilitation activities. The Department (DPIE) requires a rehabilitation cost estimate (RCE) to be submitted with an application for a MOP. The RCE is based on unit costs developed and updated by the DPIE according to the characteristics of the disturbed area.
- Q. How many people would be involved in the rehabilitation during the operational phase of the project; and then in the final post operation rehabilitation phase of the project?
- A. During operations the rehabilitation would be carried out by the same people that are involved in the mining process, after mining has finished a small crew of people would be retained to complete the site rehabilitation (approximately 10).
- Q. The Belubula River has a significant number of willow trees along its banks. How might the Regis McPhillamys project be able to assist in developing an understanding of the impact of the willow trees, and, if they are deemed to be negatively impacting on the Belubula river flows, then assist with a management program to eradicate them. Could the proposed VPA with Blayney Council or a CCC initiative be set up to assist in this?
- A. Regis has committed to a baseline survey of the Belubula River between the Project area and Carcoar dam; this baseline study may assist the understanding of the impact of willow trees on the river. Regis would be happy to be part of a group if in fact a group is established. The Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) is one of a number of mechanisms that may be used for a project like this, if in fact it does become a project.
- Q. Given the concern raised regarding the Belubula River downstream of McPhillamys, is it correct that every property owner along the Belubula between the project site and Carcoar Dam has been offered to have Regis undertake a baseline survey of water as well as a survey of springs, surface flows and bores? That being the case, would this survey also assess the impacts over the years from other chemicals and contaminants originating from the town of Blayney and the surrounding farms that have entered the river?
- A. It is not correct that every property owner along the Belubula between the project site and Carcoar dam have been offered the opportunity to participate in the baseline survey. It is correct to say that a number of property owners between the project area and Carcoar dam have been offered the opportunity to participate in the Belubula river baseline study and the majority have accepted the

offer, the baseline survey will assess surface and ground water flows. It is not the intent of the survey to assess for past impacts that may however be one of the outcomes. We already have some baseline quality data for some points along the Belubula River.

Q. Would Regis be willing to create a wetland below the mine site?

A. A wetland may form part of the site rehabilitation plan.

Miles Hedge tabled questions provided by Rebecca Price as per below:

Q. Why have Regis Resources only approached landholders on the river, if they can do water monitoring recently (two weeks prior to the EIS being submitted) when we approached Regis twice, 12 months ago with our concerns with the river and its flows and heard nothing from them?

A. Refer answer provided post meeting by Regis in Attachment 1

Q. What is the water analysis for the Mount Piper Power Station output at this point in time. Why hasn't Regis Resources come forward with this information considering it will make up a percentage of the water to be piped to the mine. I also ask Stephen O'Donoghue, as the department is involved in the construction of the desalination plant at Mount Piper, why this information is so difficult to retrieve?

A. Refer answer provided post meeting by Regis in Attachment 1

Q. The Belubula River has been running now at the proposed tailings dam site, for at least three months with extremely minimal rain. How is it that you STILL consider this to be an irrelevant amount of water contributing to the river and its flow? This is the only tributary for the river at this point and no other streams, springs or sources are currently contributing. Please explain. It may be beneficial for the CCC to go and actually look for yourself instead of getting 'experts' to do computer modelling to say otherwise.

A. Refer answer provided post meeting by Regis in Attachment 1

Q. The water storage (site runoff) dam is located within 100m of the Belubula river. As this dam will store all of the polluted run-off from the processing site, as well as the water high in mineral salts from the pipeline, why has there been no consideration of ensuring this dam will not seep, or flow into the Belubula River considering the size of the dam (approximately 1 km adjacent to the river and its proximity to it)?

A. Refer answer provided post meeting by Regis in Attachment 1

Further questions without notice:

Q. Does the DPIE conduct one on one meetings with landholders? *(Daniel Sutton)*

A. We will work in with what is best for landholders. *(Steve O'Donoghue)*

- Q. Has Regis considered the physical and mental health of the community and what are they planning on doing about it? Belubula Headwaters Protection Group have conducted health surveys. *(Elizabeth Russ)*
- A. Regis may consider conducting studies on health. They have not as yet. *(Tony McPaul)*
- A. The Social Impact Assessment recognises that residents have expressed health concerns *(Andrew Wannan)*.
- Q. Can Regis change or modify the EIS within the 42-day period? *(Daniel Sutton)*
- A. The project can be modified during the assessment period usually in response to issues raised from public and agency submissions. *(Steve O'Donoghue)*
- Q. Can Regis hold a public meeting during or after the EIS exhibition period? *(Daniel Sutton)*
- A. The Department conducts a public meeting focusing on the way the assessment is undertaken. In addition to this, there may be targeted consultation, but DPIE would not expect that Regis would hold another public meeting during this period as it is not normal practice to do so. *(Steve O'Donoghue)*
- Q. What is a sensitive receptor? I have looked it up in the Oxford dictionary, I would like a meaning. *(Evan Leitch)*
- A. This relates to a residence or property not a person. These terms are used in Government assessment policies and procedures. A receptor or receiver could be considered in determining impact assessment on a number of issues. *(Andrew Wannan)*
- Q. The Cadia tailings dam reports are now public. What lessons has Regis taken on board, knowing already that the downstream wall construction is widely recognized as superior. *(Evan Leitch)*
- A. We have read the report. Without going into the full detail of the report, there have been a number of learnings, one important area being the wall foundations. Regis has already undertaken geotechnical drilling for wall foundation stability in the proposed areas and will conduct further test work in the detailed design stage. We have also undertaken extensive work already on the geotechnical nature of the TSF floor footprint. *(Rod Smith)*
- Q. Is Regis confident it will have enough water for dust suppression in the early phases? *(Evan Leitch)*
- A. We would aim to fast track the pipeline construction. Prior to the completion of the pipeline in the early part of the project, works will be during daytime only. Regis would utilise their groundwater licences and potentially some of the harvestable rights, which should provide adequate water during that time. However, if there is insufficient water for dust suppression, then mining operations would not take place. *(Rod Smith)*

- Q. How long will it take to replace trees and provide habitat for animals? *(Evan Leitch)*
- A. As part of the EIS, there is a requirement for biodiversity offsets, which can be achieved in different ways. One option, which Regis is continuing to investigate is to locate suitable offset properties with similar flora and fauna. *(Rod Smith)*.
- Q. At the end of the mine life who takes ownership of the land? *(Daniel Sutton)*
- A. It could be maintained, returned to private land ownership, Government or Councils, or a combination of those. *(Tony McPaul)*
- Q. Will the unusable land be held or given to council? *(Daniel Sutton)*
- A. This has not been determined. *(Tony McPaul)*
- Q. How is the rehabilitation of the site protected and what is Regis' intention for rehabilitation when the mine is closed? *(Daniel Sutton)*
- A. There is a requirement for what is known as a bond to be lodged with the regulator that ensures that if the company does not do the rehabilitation work, then it can still be completed using the bond money. The amount of the bond is calculated by the regulator, not Regis. The rehabilitation plan is detailed in the EIS with a focus on returning the site to usable agricultural land. *(Andrew Wannan, Rod Smith)*
- Q. Would the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) plus any changes be a good guide for the EIS. *(Cyril Smith)*
- A. Andrew Wannan explained that the project has evolved since the PEA.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Suggestion from Rebecca Ryan to include the VPA on the agenda for the next CCC meeting, so that everyone is aware of the purpose and process of approval of a VPA.
 - Rebecca Ryan advised that Blayney Shire Council is preparing a Master Plan for the Belubula River Heritage Walk and Belubula River improvements and invited all members to participate in an online survey, which is available on Council's website.
- Q. Is Council going to consult residents on roads, traffic, landscapes etc? *(Daniel Sutton)*
- A. Council will be seeking to engage with local residents and have attended meetings in the area. *(Rebecca Ryan)*
- Q. How will council go about consulting/engaging with the community? *(Evan Leitch)*
- A. Council will do everything they can to engage with the community. *(Rebecca Ryan)*

- A. Daniel Sutton on behalf of the Belubula Headwaters Protection Group thanked the Blayney Shire Council for attending their meetings.
- David Johnson to send out a reminder to all CCC members to request questions to be forwarded to Regis at least one week prior to future CCC meetings.
 - Regis to add questions/answers to the McPhillamys website page.

ACTIONS

	Action Items	Who	Due By
1	Book Blayney Community Centre for the 23 rd September 2019 @6pm	Stacey McFawn	24 th July 2019
2	Draft minutes to be provided to the Chairperson.	Stacey McFawn	Within one week
3	Draft minutes distributed to members by email Including the alternate representatives	David Johnson	Within one week
4	Committee members provide comment on minutes to Chairperson	All committee members	Within one week
5	Minutes finalized & posted on the McPhillamys Website	David Johnson Rod Smith	19th August 2019
6	Questions and answers from the <u>May</u> CCC meeting to be added to the McPhillamys website.	Stacey McFawn	24 th July 2019

MEETING CLOSED

Meeting closed at 7.53pm.

NEXT MEETING

Monday 23rd September 2019 at 6pm at the Blayney Community Centre, 91 Adelaide Street, Blayney NSW.
(To be confirmed, alternatively 30th September 2019)

ATTACHMENT 1

Regis' response to questions from Rebecca Price, tabled without notice by Miles Hedge.

Q. Why have Regis Resources only approached landholders on the river, if they can do water monitoring recently (two weeks prior to the EIS being submitted) when we approached Regis twice, 12 months ago with our concerns with the river and its flows and heard nothing from them?

A. The condition of streams and springs and potential project impacts, in terms of both flows and quality, has been assessed within the McPhillamys project area. Baseline monitoring of water quality has also been undertaken at some publicly accessible points downstream of the McPhillamys site. The water assessments for the McPhillamys Project determine that downstream effects of the project are limited.

Notwithstanding the above, in conversation with some landowners Regis previously offered to undertake additional water monitoring in September 2018. Surveys of water resources on private land downstream of McPhillamys have again been offered to landowners following the Community open days during May 2019. The survey of bore yields, river condition, spring flows and water quality along the Belubula River will provide comprehensive and technical assessment of current water resources along the Belubula River which will also likely be a useful source of information for landholders.

Regis respects people's preference not to participate in this survey.

Q. What is the water analysis for the Mount Piper Power Station output at this point in time. Why hasn't Regis Resources come forward with this information considering it will make up a percentage of the water to be piped to the mine. I also ask Stephen O'Donoghue, as the department is involved in the construction of the desalination plant at Mount Piper, why this information is so difficult to retrieve?

A. The water to McPhillamys will be a mix from three sources: Centennial Coal's Angus Place Colliery, Springvale Coal Services Operations (SCSO) and Mount Piper Power Station (MPPS.) A Water Treatment Plant is currently being commissioned at MPPS. The current water quality for MPPS is not relevant to the proposed pipeline operations.

A slide was presented to the McPhillamys CCC recently outlining the following:

Pipeline Water Quality

- Ranges 600mg/L TDS to 7,000mg/L TDS
- Predicted average of around 3,500 mg/L TDS
- Quality characteristics for each water source will vary over time as a result of climatic conditions and operational circumstances
- The quality is not expected to ever exceed the NSW Department of Primary Industries water requirements for sheep and cattle (DPI 2014).
 - i. Sheep 10,000 – 13,000 TDS
 - ii. Cattle 5,000 – 10,000 TDS
- Regis can reject water due to quality
- On line monitoring of pipeline water quality will occur

- Q. The Belubula River has been running now at the proposed tailings dam site, for at least three months with extremely minimal rain. How is it that you STILL consider this to be an irrelevant amount of water contributing to the river and its flow? This is the only tributary for the river at this point and no other streams, springs or sources are currently contributing. Please explain. It may be beneficial for the CCC to go and actually look for yourself instead of getting 'experts' to do computer modelling to say otherwise.
- A. The water assessments, which will be publicly available when the EIS is exhibited describe existing groundwater, springs and surface water resources and project interactions.
- Q. The water storage (site runoff) dam is located within 100m of the Belubula river. As this dam will store all of the polluted run-off from the processing site, as well as the water high in mineral salts from the pipeline, why has there been no consideration of ensuring this dam will not seep, or flow into the Belubula River considering the size of the dam (approximately 1 km adjacent to the river and its proximity to it?)
- A. McPhillamys will be a nil discharge site where pipeline water, and water captured from disturbed surfaces will be reused and contained on site. The site water management system will include storage and circulation of raw water, process water and runoff from disturbed areas which will be engineered to maintain nil discharge and procedures established to monitor and manage the system.