

McPhillamys Gold Project

#3 How the project will be assessed

McPhillamys requires the approval of both the state and federal governments. Importantly, the assessment process also includes consultation with our neighbours, the community, local councils and the general public. So those in favour of or against the project, get to have a say.

The approvals process is lengthy, thorough and detailed and can take anywhere from 12 to 24 months from the time the application and EIS are lodged.

Step 1:

We started by doing a huge range of studies to examine the possible impacts of the project. These studies were done by independent experts such as scientists, environmental consultants, engineers and geologists.

Step 2:

As the studies progressed, the McPhillamys project team worked with the experts to come up with ways to remove or mitigate the impacts.

Step 3:

Based on the results of the studies (e.g. traffic, noise, dust, water etc) we designed the preferred location and method of our operations to make sure that they met environmental, safety and other relevant standards. We shared the results with neighbours and the community and discussed with them ways to reduce impacts.

Step 4:

Once the project plan was final we submitted it to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for assessment. This was in the form of a document called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Step 5:

The DPIE reviewed the application before placing it on public exhibition. The exhibition period provides the opportunity for comment from other government agencies as well as the general public. The DPIE will then consider the feedback and ask Regis to respond.

After considering all of the information the DPIE will then recommend that the project be approved or rejected.

Step 6:

The application may be determined by the government or sent to an independent body called the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for a decision on whether the project gets approved or rejected.

The IPC may hold a public hearing where members of the public can speak for or against the project. They also accept written submissions.

The following chart gives a quick summary of how the process works and who does what. If you would like more detailed information please check out the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website at the following address:

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

