

McPhillamys Gold Project

#19 Aboriginal Heritage and Historical Cultural Heritage

Assessment for Aboriginal heritage at McPhillamys

An Aboriginal and historical cultural heritage assessment (AHCHA) was carried out in 2019 over the McPhillamys project area.

The assessment found 37 Aboriginal heritage sites located in the McPhillamys project area consisting of:

- 19 small scatters of stone; and
- 18 isolated finds of stone artefacts.

Twenty-three of the sites will be directly impacted by land disturbance as they lie in the footprint of the open cut pit, tailings storage facility and other areas of mine activity.

Managing and protecting artefacts and items of cultural heritage

Regis will work in consultation with indigenous stakeholders to make sure any items of indigenous heritage significance are managed and protected.

Artefacts from the 23 sites directly impacted by the project will be salvaged and safely stored, before the land is disturbed by project activities.

Protective barriers will be erected around five sites outside the proposed disturbance footprint to protect them from being disturbed.

The remaining 10 sites are near proposed surface disturbance activities and may be salvaged if impact is unavoidable.

Findings from the Assessment

- Regis acknowledges that the project area, and the broader regional area within which the project is located, has cultural significance to the Aboriginal community.
- It is acknowledged that all archaeological sites provide connection to the past for the present Aboriginal community for future generations.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage sites identified in the project area and their context are not assessed as being of high scientific significance.
- All directly and indirectly impacted sites will be managed in accordance with a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, which will be prepared in consultation with the Aboriginal community.
- In order to effectively mitigate and manage impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage, Regis will actively consult with the Aboriginal community throughout the life of the project.

Historical cultural heritage

The McPhillamys historic heritage assessment identified 23 historic heritage sites in the project area.

These sites are representative of pastoral and mining activities of the late 19th century and include:

- historic dwellings and dwelling ruins;
- mining sites (shafts, an adit, survey marker tree);
- domestic and pastoral refuse dumps;
- small bridges; and
- pastoral sites (sheds, stockyards).

Findings from the assessment

The main finding of the heritage assessment was that there are no State or Local Government-listed heritage items in the McPhillamys project area.

There are seven sites of local significance, within the footprint of the mine development, including one of potentially higher significance, which will require further research (Hallwood Farm).

Four of the locally significant sites within the project areas may be subjected to some level of disturbance. With appropriate management measures, disturbance to the sites in the project area would not greatly impact the historical heritage value of the project area or region.

Hallwood Farm

Hallwood Farm is located in the area proposed for one of the project's water management facilities.

Despite not being listed on Local or State heritage registers, the farm has been identified as likely to have heritage significance.

Further research will be conducted to confirm the significance of this site, and any mitigation and management measures which might be required.

Management measures

A number of measures will be taken to manage identified or potential heritage impacts.

These include:

- subsurface testing at two sites;
- archival recording and/or salvaging for others; and
- fencing of some sites outside of the disturbance footprint to ensure they are well protected.

Cultural Heritage Management Plan

A Cultural Heritage Management Plan, will be prepared to guide management of sites in the project area and to avoid inadvertent impacts.

The Cultural Heritage Management Plan will also include the protocol for unanticipated finds such as artefacts and skeletal remains.



Above: Old mine shafts on the McPhillamys site



Above: Exterior of hut at Hallwood Farm