

McPhillamys Gold Project

CCC Minutes

Title	McPhillamys Gold Project Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting #14																																							
Meeting Date	22 November 2021 @ 6pm																																							
Venue	Attended both by ZOOM and in person at the Blayney Community Centre ZOOM*																																							
Chair	David Johnson	Independent Chairperson																																						
Meeting Attendees	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Evan Leitch*</td> <td>Community Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elizabeth Russ</td> <td>Community Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bob Russ</td> <td>Community Representative Alternate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Daniel Sutton</td> <td>BHPG Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miles Hedge</td> <td>Community Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peter Hildenbeutel</td> <td>Community Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tom Williams</td> <td>Community Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rebecca Ryan</td> <td>Blayney Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Heather Nicholls*</td> <td>Cabonne Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ian North*</td> <td>Bathurst Council (Phone)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stephen O'Donoghue*</td> <td>Dept of Planning, Industry & Env (DPIE)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Wannan</td> <td>Regis Resources</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Roach</td> <td>Regis Resources Alternate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tony McPaul</td> <td>Regis Resources</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kathryn Logan</td> <td>Regis Resources Observer</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">-----</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stacey McFawn</td> <td>Minutes</td> </tr> </table>		Evan Leitch*	Community Representative	Elizabeth Russ	Community Representative	Bob Russ	Community Representative Alternate	Daniel Sutton	BHPG Representative	Miles Hedge	Community Representative	Peter Hildenbeutel	Community Representative	Tom Williams	Community Representative	-----		Rebecca Ryan	Blayney Council	Heather Nicholls*	Cabonne Council	Ian North*	Bathurst Council (Phone)	Stephen O'Donoghue*	Dept of Planning, Industry & Env (DPIE)	-----		Andrew Wannan	Regis Resources	Chris Roach	Regis Resources Alternate	Tony McPaul	Regis Resources	Kathryn Logan	Regis Resources Observer	-----		Stacey McFawn	Minutes
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Apologies	Danielle Wallace Cyril Smith	Regis Resources ORWSA Representative																																						
Next Meeting	28 March 2022 @ 6.00pm - TBC Blayney Community Centre 91 Adelaide Street, Blayney NSW or Via ZOOM* depending on COVID restrictions.																																							

MEETING WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - David Johnson

Meeting opened at 6:05pm

Apologies tendered for the meeting:

Danielle Wallace

Ian North joined meeting by Telephone at 6.33pm.

Introduction and acknowledgement of Country by David Johnson **Declarations**

of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests:

- Evan Leitch declared a pecuniary interest and indicated his intention to resign from the Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (30 August) – David Johnson

- The minutes of the last meeting on 30 August 2021 were approved by the Community Consultative Committee as being read and correct;
- Minutes had been distributed to the committee without Daniel Suttons questions. Questions are on the website.
- No business arising from the last meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

- No correspondence.

REGIS RESOURCES MCPHILLAMYS GOLD PROJECT UPDATE

Tony McPaul advised of some staff changes at Regis. Chris Roach is leaving and Kath Logan has joined as External Relations Manager.

PowerPoint presentation by Tony McP. The key points from the presentation were:

- The Regis office will reopen from the 29th November 2021;
- Environmental monitoring is continuing;
- Construction water supply investigations are ongoing;
- Landowner agreements ongoing- Landowner meeting held the 7th November;
- Arrangements for visual screening proposals are ongoing;

- A Section 9 application (under ATSI Act) was made over the Project Area by an outside party, but was not granted;
- A Section 10 application also made and yet to be determined; representations have been invited;
- A Right to Negotiate (native title) process over MLA 595 will probably commence in Dec 21;
- Community information Sheet #16 scheduled for December 2021;
- Community Christmas donations made to various local groups/schools;
- Regulatory approvals - Assessment and recommendation by Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in progress.

QUESTIONS ARISING FROM REGIS PRESENTATION

- Miles Hedge questioned if the IPC can deliver an approval if the native title issue is still unresolved ? The IPC, native title and section 10 considerations will run parallel; the determination relating to section 10 is expected to be resolved by the time construction is due to start;
- Elizabeth Russ questioned if Regis are contacting landowners for bore and surface water monitoring. Chris Roach responded, letting the committee know that Regis has stopped private landowner monitoring.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

- Tony McPaul went through a list of questions and answers submitted by Daniel Sutton. These questions and answers will be attached to the minutes once distributed to the committee.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Rebecca Ryan indicated that there has not been a chair or IPC panel announced as yet on the IPC website. Once the Project report has been finalised and referred to the IPC by the DPIE the panel will be announced;
- Stephen O'Donoghue was questioned as to whether the IPC hearing will be in person or be online and what is the timeframe? He indicated that the IPC would like to go back to the normal public hearing process but will need to follow Covid-19 rules that are in place at that time. The DPIE is hoping to finalise the Project assessment report and provide it to the IPC in the first quarter of 2022;
- David Johnson mentioned there is a strong feeling from the committee wanting the IPC hearing to be held in Blayney. Stephen O'Donoghue indicated that it is the IPC's preference to hold the meetings in person;
- Elizabeth Russ mentioned the extended timeframe and the on-going mental health impacts on Kings Plains residents. Stephen O'Donoghue indicated that once the department finalises the project report the IPC should be given a 12 week time frame to make a determination, hopefully within the first quarter of 2022. He noted that the social impacts of the proposal are being considered by the DPIE;
- Miles Hedge and Bob Russ asked if it is usual for a tailings dam to be located in the headwaters of a river Stephen O'Donoghue answered by explaining it is not uncommon for a tailings dam to be located in a catchment area;

- Daniel Sutton asked Stephen O’Donoghue which party is holding up the DPIE report - is it Regis or the various government departments ? Stephen O’Donoghue explained it’s a combination of both.
- Daniel Sutton questioned if the costs of filling the final void of the open pit had been considered ? Stephen O’Donoghue indicated he couldn’t recall but believes that the DPIE are still considering that, and would check.
- Tony McPaul and David Johnson both thanked Evan Leitch and Chris Roach for their contribution and time on the Community Consultative Committee. Daniel Sutton also thanked Evan for his contribution to questions raised in meetings.

ACTIONS

	Action Items	Who	Due By
1	Book Blayney Community Centre for the 7 th March 2022 or 28 th if unavailable.	Stacey McFawn	23/11/21
2	Draft minutes to be provided to the Chairperson.	Stacey McFawn	29/11/21
3	Draft minutes distributed to members by email; Including the alternate representatives	David Johnson	3/12/21
4	Committee members provide comment on minutes to Chairperson	All committee members	17/12/21
5	Minutes finalised & posted on the McPhillamys Website	David Johnson Stacey McFawn	27/12/21
6	Questions and answers from the <u>November</u> CCC meeting to be added to the McPhillamys website.	Stacey McFawn	27/12/21

MEETING CLOSED

Meeting closed at 7.24pm

NEXT MEETING

Subsequent to the meeting, it was found that the Community Centre is unavailable on 7th March 2022, so depending on COVID restrictions, the preferred date (TBC) is now **28th March 2022**, at 6pm at the Blayney Community Centre, 91 Adelaide Street, Blayney.

ATTACHMENT 1 – Answers to questions provided by Daniel Sutton for CCC meeting 22nd November 2021

1. Pursuant to the previous minutes, I'm yet to be provided with clarification around the purpose of the decant facility and why it appears in the amended reports but not the initial EIS.

The answer is provided to Question 6 of the questions from the last meeting and posted on the McPhillamys web site. Repeated below:

The decant is a way of recovering water from the tailing storage facility (TSF) for reuse in the processing plant. The decant was proposed in the western part of the TSF (as shown on Plate 11 in Appendix D in the EIS). In the Amendment report it has been changed to a central decant system which is more efficient for the return water over the life of the mine.

2. In an article in the Blayney Chronicle on 23rd September 2021, Tony McPaul stated "The pipeline will bring all the water we need for processing". Can you please clarify this as your reports suggest that the pipeline supply will only provide 52% of your needs? Further to this, could we please receive an update as to the specifics of what portions of your water supply will be sourced from where? We are finding conflicting reports and hearing conflicting information.

The pipeline will have the capacity to meet all the demand for processing, including during extremely dry years. The site water management system provides for the capture of water within mine disturbance areas to be reused for processing as well as tailings decant water. The on-site management of water is typical for mining operations which in wet years reduces the volumes required from external water sources. The percent figure referred to in the question is on average.

The project needs to have a secure and reliable water supply under all conditions and the pipeline provides this. The water will be sourced from the Centennial Coal Springvale Coal Services operation, the Angus place mine and Energy Australia's power station. The percentage of water supplied from each location is variable and depends on a number of factors.

3. We request you be specific with the quality of the brine from Lithgow. If you can't tell us the makeup of the brine, how can you make claims that it's stock drinking quality?

Before it enters the pipeline, the combination of water from Coal Services, Energy Australia and the Angus place Coal mine will meet stock drinking water guidelines.

4. Has there been any discussion with the Bathurst Council about accessing the pipeline while Regis is using it for the project?

No. It has been made clear that the pipeline is to provide water for the McPhillamys operation.

5. What is the pipeline proposed to be made of and what regularity is the maintenance schedule to ensure weaknesses are identified prior to any issues?

The design for the pipeline is still to be finalised, however it is likely to be made of a combination of materials including high-quality steel. Pg. 84 of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) states: “The pipeline material will be confirmed during detailed design, but may be ductile iron, heavy duty polyethylene, steel or glass reinforced plastic, or a combination of these.” There will be a control system to identify issues such as leak detection.

6. In appendix X table 1.2 on pg. 19, it is noted in the table as a section addressed that the buried pipeline will not have a water management system. Can you please confirm if this means that no buried section of the pipeline will have a water management system at all?

The reference to the “water management system” referred to in the question, is a response to the environmental assessment requirements (EARs) for the Project applicable to the pipeline. The pipeline forms part of the overall Project water management system.

7. In Regis’ promotional email to all subscribers on 14th October 2021, you have stated “an important feature of the McPhillamys Project is the Regis ‘locals first’ policy”. Can you please forward a copy of the policy to the CCC members for a transparent understanding of your policies to labour procurement? An important benefit of the Project will be the creation of jobs and business opportunities in the local area. Regis is keen to ensure that people in the local community benefit from these opportunities and we have made a commitment to prioritise local people for jobs. This means recruiting the workforce from the local area, wherever possible and feasible.

8. With Regis confirming they have now acquired the property known as R28a, can the company confirm if they intend to continue the construction of the approved dwelling on the property to allow new residents in the area, or will it remain vacant land?

No long-term decision has been made on the use for this piece of land.

9. Centennial Coal has applied to extend the licence for its existing mine and open up two new areas - Angus Place West. It also appears as though they are applying to construct and operate the pipeline to McPhillamys mine. Can you please provide clarification for transparent understanding who is applying for the pipeline, who will own the pipeline, who will control the operation of the pipeline, who will be responsible for maintaining the pipeline?

As per the project application. Regis Resources (through LFB Resources) is seeking approval for the pipeline as described in the EIS and Amendment Report. At this point in time LFB Resources would be the owner of the pipeline.

10. Can you please confirm if the resource sourced via the pipeline will be treated prior to entering the pipeline from Centennial Coal? There is conflicting information and understanding in the community. The water will not be treated prior to entering the pipeline.

11. Why is it that to shareholders and the general community, Regis continues to try and promote that the proposal is ‘nearly there’ but in reality, Regis nor the DPIE can actually provide a date for a referral to the IPC, let alone an actual decision and what that decision would likely be? A Regis presentation at the Denver Gold conference on 13/09/2021, slide 14, has an image of what the final project may look like if all

rehab goes to plan, and it's titled "McPhillamys – Approvals in final stage". Does Regis Resources admit that it's misleading the community and its investors in its representations? If not, can Regis please justify why they continue to make statements such as this and others similar in their newsletters and the Blayney paper that indicate they are 'ready to go' when it is not the case?

The approvals system in NSW is detailed and thorough and State Significant projects such as McPhillamys have a lengthy assessment process.

Regis looks forward to a determination on the project which is now in the final stages of assessment by the Department of Planning Industry and Environment.

Throughout the process Regis has kept shareholders and the community informed about the progress of the project. The McPhillamys newsletter reports have made it clear that Regis is developing plans and schedules for the construction phase in preparation for a possible approval, while the project continues through the final stages of the assessment process. That means that if the project does get the go-ahead from the Independent Planning Commission we can be ready to start as soon as possible.