

# McPhillamys Gold Project

## CCC Out-of-Session Meeting Notes

Title	McPhillamys Gold Project Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Out-of-Session Meeting (#16) <b>Department of Planning and Environment Q&amp;A</b>	
Meeting Date	1 June 2022 @ 6pm	
Venue	ZOOM	
Chair	<b>David Johnson (DJ)</b>	Independent Chairperson
Attendees	<b>Cyril Smith (CS)</b> <b>Elizabeth Russ (ER)</b> <b>Daniel Sutton (DS)</b>	ORWSA Representative Community Representative BHPG Representative
	<b>Stephen O'Donoghue (SO)</b> <b>Mark Dicker (MD)</b> <b>Veronica Windus (VW)</b>	Dept of Planning & Env (DPE) Blayney Council Cabonne Council (alt)
	<b>Andrew Wannan (AW)</b> <b>Danielle Wallace (DW)</b> <b>Kathryn Logan (KL)</b>	Regis Resources Regis Resources Regis Resources
	<b>Rachel Healy (RH)</b>	Minutes
Apologies	<b>Heather Nicholls</b>	Cabonne Council
Next Meeting	20 June 2022 @ 6.00pm Blayney Community Centre 91 Adelaide Street, Blayney NSW or Via ZOOM*	

### MEETING WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - David Johnson

Meeting opened at 6:02pm

**Apologies** Miles Hedge, Peter Hildenbeutel, Heather Nicholls

**Introduction & Acknowledgement of Country** David Johnson

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING UPDATE (SO)

- Regis have just lodged an amended application for the project, which will go up on the DPE website tomorrow.
- It will not be put on exhibition because changes are minor, and will improve environmental outcomes and reduce impacts:
  1. Minor changes to water management facilities on site
  2. Minor adjustment to mining lease application area (footprint reduced)
  3. Minor alternations to pipeline alignment based on landholder consultation
  4. Other
- People are welcome to provide comment on the amendment to DPE, however there will be no formal exhibition, or request for submissions.
- The amendment was mentioned at the last CCC.

## QUESTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REGIS RESOURCES At a previous CCC meeting, DPE told members IPC referral was expected by April 2022. Why didn't that happen? Was referral delayed by the amendment report? (DS)

Referral was not delayed by the amendment report. Delays were caused by dealings with DPE Water and getting final advice through. Regis has prepared the Request for Information (RFI) but is waiting on DPE Water for final inputs before the document can be submitted. (SO)

Correspondence including recommendations from DPE Water is on the major projects website. (AW)

Surface water is the last part of Regis' response to the RFI. DPE is expecting the final package within a month. Then they will start to finalise their assessment. (SO)

## Does the amendment anticipate surface water impacts decreasing? What licences do you hold? (DS) AW

& DPE water modelling discussion followed.

## Will the RFI response finalise the amount of water licences Regis will need to hold? (DS) Yes

(AW)

## Regis' modelling is based on 132 years of data, but is that relevant to the future when surface water volumes are predicted to drop by up to 50% ? (CS)

CS claimed that the Draft NSW Regional Water Strategies are good sources of information. He questions whether Regis acknowledge that reduced streamflows are predicted due to climate change over the life of the project. CS noted that the Draft Strategy for Macquarie-Castlereagh forecasts a 50% reduction in annual streamflows over the next 50 years. He believes these trends for streamflow reductions should be considered when evaluating the project feasibility.

Regis cannot respond to information from a source described as confidential, provided without context, nor compare to the actual data collected for McPhillamys(AW).

Modelling was done for a number of scenarios and included consideration for climate change and other sensitivities. (AW, SO)

Discussion about groundwater impacts with reference to Wellington Caves. The Project groundwater model and results have been subject to review by Regis and DPE Planning and Assessment's independent experts.

NOTE: Groundwater modelling information is also available on the major projects website.

NOTE: If CS would like to send additional information to SO, he is always happy to review it. **How**

**long will DPE take to finalise the referral to the IPC? (DS)**

- RFI closed out and submitted by Regis – expected within 4 weeks (depending on further requests for information from DPE Water)
- DPE seeks final advice from DPE Water – resolution process takes 4-6 weeks

**Has COVID legislation been changed to allow the IPC to again hold public hearings in person ? (CS)**

The Minister has requested a public hearing and we are not aware of any legislation that would prohibit it from being held in-person. SO will check with the IPC, but it is understood that the choice of meeting type is for the IPC.

The next IPC hearing is for the Mt Pleasant project and that will set the precedent. (SO)

Blayney Shire Council has requested in writing that a public hearing be held in Blayney (MD).

**Will there definitely be turkeys nest dams, where and how many? (ER)**

DPE Water recommended an alternate approach to the design and construction of two dams on site, one for raw water and one for the main water supply. They will allow more water to be diverted back to the Belubula. Maps showing their location will be available.

**Does Regis still hold 70ML of water licences? (DS)**

Yes. More are potentially available. Regis has applied for further available licences from the water source above Carcoar Dam. Regis and DPE Water will consider the latest modelling to determine the water licences Regis will need to access and from where.

Note that if Regis is required to access additional water licences, it doesn't mean that more water is being taken. Licencing is an administrative function – impact and licence volumes don't necessarily align where licencing exemptions may apply under the Water Management legislation

**Is DPE Water doing the review, not NRAR? (CS)**

Yes, the licencing and assessment function has been shifted back to DPE Water. NRAR (Natural Resources Access Regulator) manages compliance and the issuing and assessment of water licences.

There remains continuity with responsible officers who have been involved in assessing the Project for some time. (AW, SO)

**Does the DPE Water enforcement team still exist? (CS)**

The enforcement and regulation functions are managed by NRAR. (SO)

**Is there a submission period for the amendment that has just been submitted? (DJ)**

There is not a formal submission process for minor amendments. Noted that submissions made during a formal exhibition period have statutory meaning.

**Do submissions made on this second amendment carry less weight than ones made during formal exhibition periods? (CS)**

Not necessarily. Submitters have rights. For example, when IPC starts, DPE will give IPC a list of submitters so that IPC can contact them. (SO)

**Can people make submissions on the current amendment as amendments to their own earlier submissions? (CS)**

No, but DPE can consider additional information. People can also make submissions to the IPC (verbal and written) and those submissions will go up on the IPC website. (SO)

When IPC referral is made, the IPC will clarify submission processes. (AW)

**Are non-IPC submissions published at IPC? (DJ)**

Sometimes DPE will elect to publish non-IPC submissions. (SO)

**The project amendment will be published on the DPE Planning Portal tomorrow (barring technical problems). There will be an amendment folder added to the McPhillamys Project so it is clear which are the first and second amendments. (SO)**

**ACTION:** SO to advise DJ as to whether the IPC could hold the public hearing in person.

**MEETING CLOSED**

Meeting closed at 6.50 pm

**NEXT MEETING**

Next scheduled CCC meeting is on **20<sup>th</sup> June 2022**, at 6pm at the Blayney Community Centre, 91 Adelaide Street, Blayney.