



OUT21/2022

Dr Mandana Mazaheri
Team Leader
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Via Major Planning Projects Portal

Dear Dr Mazaheri

Response to Government Agency to the Response to Submissions (RtS) and Amendment - McPhillamys Gold Project (SSD 9505).

Thank you for the notification of the Response to Government Agency Response to the RtS and Amendment of the proposed McPhillamys Gold Project on 5 February 2021.

NSW DPI is pleased with the resolution of the majority of the agricultural issues raised as part of the Response to Submissions and Amendment Report later last year. We also had the opportunity to discuss the honey bee issue with the representatives of the proponents and their consultants which is reflected in this Response document.

DPI's notes the previous recommendations made have been considered in this response. In relation to the three outstanding issues we had raised please see the attached recommendations sheet. From an agricultural perspective we support this proposal proceeding with conditions.

Should you have any questions in relation to this response I have asked the Ms Mary Kovac be available to answer your enquiries. Ms Kovac may be contacted on 02 6881 1250

Yours sincerely

22/2/21

Tamara Prentice
Manager Agricultural Land Use Planning

1. The physical impacts of the water supply pipeline on agriculture are appropriately considered and mitigated

Recommendation 1 – The need to consider the impacts on cropping by the pipeline:

- Where the trench traverses an area of cropping land the pipeline must be laid to the maximum depth. This will minimise the risk to the pipeline and farm infrastructure if the area is deep ripped etc.

This has been adopted as part of the individual property management planning consultation in areas where cropping can be undertaken.

Recommendation 2: In relation to rehabilitation we recommend the following;

- Initial irrigation with a water truck may also be considered depending on the site, seasonal conditions and land use in areas of seeding to maximise germination and groundcover establishment.
- As part of the monitoring, consultation with the landholders and photographic evidence be compiled. This will assist with evidence for final land restoration if and when pipeline removal is undertaken on mine closure.

The development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan will incorporate these issues and others. The preparation of the property management plans will allow individual landholders to be able to deal with post construction land outcomes e.g. grass and fertilisers on a property by property level. There is no further comment on this issue.

2. The impacts on local and regional employment on affected agricultural industries and enterprises are investigated and addressed.

We note that Regis has not clarified in its response how it will “monitor local labour supply and adjust local labour recruitment practices...” and no commitment is given to transparent reporting. “Exploring opportunities” for workers to use part-time work may be a useful mitigation strategy but no firm commitment is made to this.

We recommend that a condition of approval be that Regis be required to report on:

- recruitment from the agricultural sector in the Blayney and surrounding LGAs as part of the recruitment and training strategy, and
- how it is supporting the local workforce to participate in the mining workforce with the flexibility required to meet their ongoing agricultural pursuits and mitigating the price impacts of any significant shifts of labour away from agriculture.

3. The apiary industry is considered during the mine's operation.

We acknowledge the opportunity to discuss the apiary issue prior to this report. The issues raised previously have been addressed in the information supplied.

Also we have been advised that Regis Resources Limited has now purchased the “Azeil” property that is highlighted as being investigated in the report. We wish to reaffirm the need for availability of this area for apiary use.