

Mandana Mazaheri
Team Leader - Assessments
Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure
C/o Major Projects Portal

**Re: McPhillamys Gold Infrastructure Project – Water Supply Pipeline Scoping Report – DPIRD
Agriculture and Biosecurity Advice**

Dear Ms Mazaheri

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Scoping Report for the proposed Water Supply Pipeline component of the McPhillamys Gold Infrastructure Project (MGIP).

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Agriculture and Biosecurity (the Department) collaborates with our stakeholders to protect and enhance the productive and sustainable use and resilience of agricultural resources and the environment. The Department has reviewed the provided Scoping Report within that expertise and remit and offer the following advice in relation to the forthcoming Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

- As referenced in the key matters for assessment table from the Scoping Report, an agricultural impact assessment should be undertaken to establish the quality of agricultural lands and resources that would be impacted by the proposal. This should be put in terms of land and soil capability (LSC) class, and any other relevant biophysical data, as well as demonstrated land use capacity based on historical information, observation or consultation with associated landholders and operators.
- Detail should be provided on the proposed rehabilitation plan such that long-term impacts to agricultural land can be established. Rehabilitation of agricultural land should have the explicit goal of returning the site to its 'pre-development agricultural productivity potential' wherever achievable.
- Cumulative impacts to agricultural land and resources should also be considered, with regards to other components of the approved McPhillamys Gold Project and MGIP, as well as other state significant projects in the locality. Cumulative loss of agricultural land should be broken down by LSC class wherever possible, and put into context of the overall supply of these resources across the region and respective local government areas.

- A Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) should be undertaken to establish, avoid and otherwise mitigate the potential for conflict with surrounding agricultural operations. This should be based on the Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA) Guide (2011, or as updated at time of undertaking) and should be informed where possible by direct consultation with surrounding landholders and agricultural operators to establish their specific needs and conflict risks. This should also include potential conflict with agricultural operations on proponent owned land outside the immediate works footprint, where that conflict has the potential to reduce the agricultural productivity of these areas.
- A Biosecurity Management Plan should be developed in relation to potential agricultural impacts (pests, weeds, and potential emergency animal diseases such as Japanese Encephalitis and Foot and Mouth Disease) including a risk assessment outlining the likely plant, animal, and community risks.

Should you require clarification on any of the information contained in this response, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at landuse.ag@dpird.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely



Milo Kelly
Agricultural Land Use Planning Officer
Agriculture and Biosecurity | Agricultural Land Use Planning
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27 November 2025