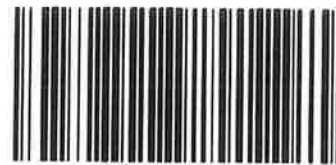


87 St John's Rd
Blaxland NSW 2774



PCU078417

Submission Against Proposed McPhillamys Gold Mine

I am extremely opposed to the proposed Regis gold mine 30 kilometres west of Bathurst. I am concerned for two major reasons: the environmental impacts that it will have within and beyond its 2513ha spread AND the fact that other mines may follow if this one is approved. Please keep our countryside for agricultural use. People who live there appreciate its peace and beauty.

Summary: I am extremely concerned about potential toxic spills, water and dust pollution, impacts on the habitats of local wildlife, scarring of the landscape, exaggerated estimates of the mine's benefits and impacts on neighbouring properties and the health of the river system.

Financial:

Regis is Australian owned but less than 30% of shareholders are Australian – this will be an instance of damaging our environment for mainly overseas profits. Regis is applying for a 20 year licence, so any jobs which attach to the mine will leave as soon as it closes, supposedly after about 10-15 years.

Water: The proposed location of the mine sits at the headwaters of the Belubula River. The company has applied for an unregulated water licence. Regis has modelled that there will be a 4% reduction of water flow into the Carcoar dam because of permanently blocking springs at the site and dams onsite with water that will be contaminated due to mining. The countryside is in severe drought - why is mining [a water intensive activity] even being considered? I am concerned about the potential for pollution of water bores and farm dams once the mine pit depth is greater than that of the local water table and I am worried about ground water pollution.

Impact on neighbouring properties

I am concerned that onsite dams [with contaminated water or with heavy metal tailings] could develop leaks and that contaminated water on the mine site could seep into nearby properties and into the Belubula River that feeds into the Murray-Darling Basin system. I am concerned about contamination over many years, dropped property values due to contamination, loss of high quality agricultural land that may be contaminated and loss of good quality drinking water into the future. The Clarence Colliery coal spills into the Wollangambe River at Lithgow come to mind:
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-07-14/clarence-colliery-fined-one-million-for-blue-mountains-spill/8709834> Properties neighbouring the mine will be unsellable.

Dust pollution

Mining activities involve blasting, noise and dust. Kings Plains and many other properties nearby do not have reticulated water and rely on rain water for most domestic use and bore water for other uses. I am concerned about the pollution of water supplies by dust and fumes. I am concerned that airborne dust may impact on residents' health.

Request

Please reject this mining proposal outright. Please place the countryside before profits. At the very least, please commission some independent reports about current water quality and air particles that can be used as benchmarks because modelling by mining companies can be extremely rubbery.

Elizabeth Chase
October 6, 2019
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EChase



*I have made no reportable political donations
in the last two years. EChase*