



4/269 Malton Road
North Epping NSW 2121
2019-10-10

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY 2001



Submission re McPhillamys Gold Mine, Blayney

Dear People

As you can see from my address I don't live anywhere near the site of this proposed mine, but my daughter does, and she is very distressed about the effect it will have on the surrounding area, including where she lives. Having skimmed through the project overview¹ online, I can well understand her distress. There are so many irresponsible aspects with this project it is difficult to know where to start, so I will concentrate on the most potentially damaging in the long term – the tailings dam.

The vast majority of Australia is in the grip of drought, claimed by some to be the most severe and widespread in recorded history. The vast majority of expert opinion is that, due to the now unavoidable climate change caused by global warming, such droughts are going to become the new normal. This will result in reduced rainfall, increased evaporation, and consequent scarcity of water for all purposes, including farming, on which we all depend for food production. Yet this project is seriously proposing to construct a tailings dam, full of potentially toxic sludge, on top of the headwaters of one of the few rivers in the country still in reasonable condition.

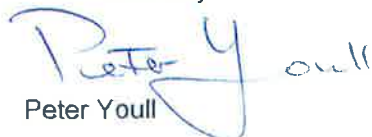
No doubt the financiers and engineers who are promoting and designing this project are highly skilled, but the risks posed by this project are way out of proportion with the benefit to be gained for the country as a whole. Tailings dams have been known to fail, with catastrophic consequences. Destroying this agricultural area for a 15 year project to extract gold at a concentration of perhaps 1.05gm/tonne, producing 60m+ tonnes of waste, and leaving a destroyed landscape and toxic legacy that will last for ever just cannot be justified to produce a metal that will likely end up as jewellery, or be locked away as bullion.

Other major concerns that make this project unacceptable include...

- Inevitable contamination of the Belubula and Lachlan Rivers, due to seepage though groundwater flows from the tailings dam, with consequential loss of recreational opportunities at the Carcoar Dam
- Traffic problems caused by the continuous stream of heavy vehicles, and light vehicles at shift changes
- The blot on the landscape caused by the "amenity bunds" and dust
- Noise, dust, vibrations, particulate pollution from diesel fumes, light pollution and the risks posed by regular explosions
- Permanent degradation of prime agricultural land and scenery
- The high probability that the developer will not be willing or able to rehabilitate the site when the mine eventually becomes unviable, as has happened so many times in the history of mining.

I therefore urge you to reject this proposal in its entirety.

Yours sincerely


Peter Youll

¹ <https://www.regisresources.com.au/McPhillamys-Gold-Project/mcphillamys-gold-project.html> - I did not have the time or resources to wade through the 6600 pages of the final EIS, which is allegedly full of irrelevant dross