

KEIRMONT

2378 MITCHELL HWY

VICTORIA NSW 2799

DEPT OF PLANNING

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT

GPO BOX 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Re: McPhillamys Gold Project - Kings Plains
Development of an open cut mine and water
supply pipeline.

We object to the development of this mine on
these grounds:

1. WATER - This is our most precious resource, as the present climatic situation is proving beyond doubt. Contamination via the tailings dam, or even the pipeline from Mt Piper, could cause irreparable damage to farming land, the Belubulah River and underground water supplies. We believe that if the Mt Piper pipeline is not successful Regis will access water from the Lachlan River through the water licences they have there. This will deprive irrigators of vital water needed for food production, not to mention environmental impacts. Regis says the risk of contamination is minimal but even minimal risk is too great in our opinion. Our surface water - (two previously permanent creeks now permanently dry and dams continuously low or empty) - is no longer adequate for our grazing operation. We are dependent on our bore. More and more people are tapping into this vital resource, and whether

this is sustainable into the future is unknown. Climate change is already having a catastrophic impact on our water supplies - no living thing on this earth can survive without it. All water must be saved as much as possible and used very, very wisely. To waste it on gold mining is sacrilege - short term gain for a few, possibly catastrophic loss for many.

2. THE ENVIRONMENT - Planting seedlings does not replace old trees and their eco-systems. With the knowledge that we now possess regarding the loss of bio-diversity and Australia's infamous record for the highest extinction rates in the world, to destroy our ever dwindling mature trees is reprehensible. One koala has been sighted in this area, it would seem strange that it is all alone. By destroying habitat we are sending our national icon to extinction - all for the sake of mankind's greed.

3. DUST - Most local residents use tank water. The dust from the tailings dam and open-cut mine will astronomically contaminate this water. With our increasingly hot and drier climate the evaporation on the tailings dam will be extreme, especially throughout our summers. The amount of water Regis will need to use to reduce - not eliminate! the level of dust will be huge. More waste and contamination of that precious resource WATER. People's health will also be affected especially those suffering from asthma and other lung problems.

4. - NOISE - Constant noise can also be detrimental to human health. This does not just include blasting but also vehicles - especially when reversing. The proximity of this mine to residents on the Mid-Western Highway and the town of Blayney is astounding, especially as it is planned to operate twenty-four hours a day.

The negatives for this development far out-way any supposedly positives - more local employment, support of local businesses? growth for the town? Even if these somewhat questionable events occur the time period is only ten to fifteen years according to Regis. The whole project is high risk for short term gain and will adversely affect more lives and the environment than any benefits gained.

Hoping that common sense prevails

Yours Faithfully

Belinda + John Hanks

B. Hanks & J. Hanks