

24<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Planning Services, DPIE  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: OBJECTION TO MCPHILLAMYS GOLD PROJECT SSD-9505**

My wife and I reside on Walkom Road, directly south of the proposed project. Our property is 11 acres with dual dwelling entitlement and extends from a level area that joins Walkom Road to the crest of a small hill at which point you get unobstructed views North, East and South with well established native trees to the West that act as wind breaker for the semi frequent strong Westerly winds we get. We can see Mount Canobolas, the proposed pit, North over rolling hills, across to the Vittoria State Forest, and over the rolling hills heading East towards Bathurst. From the two dwellings on our property, we will see the pit, the pit amenity bund, the waste rock emplacement and the access road.

We are new comers to the area, unaware of what potential was laying quietly across the highway where cattle grazed at the time. We purchased our vacant block of land in March of 2016 which came with everything we wanted for the rest of our lives: dual dwelling approval for our own house and one for our families who frequently visit as they travel the country for work; ample land for multiple outdoor areas for our enjoyment; neighbours that aren't too close to intrude, but not far away enough to be unknown; beautiful clean air in a cool climate with a nice breeze in summer; a 20 minute drive to Bathurst and 30 minute drive to Orange where I work from, and for easy access to a broad range of schools for my wife to teach at; access to the property on a sealed road that wasn't a highway; a mail service; and a school bus route for planned children. We had it all planned out until we found out about the proposed mine less than a km away.

I joined the Belubula Headwaters Protection Group as the treasurer when it was incorporated. I then became president shortly after. I applied to be on the Community Consultative Committee in an attempt to learn more about the project and ensure people's concerns were heard and that transparency improved. The lack of information coming from the proponent was forcing me to look as deep as possible on my own time to get the answers. My knowledge on the proposal is now to a level that even the Regis representatives can't answer my questions, and I have to go to the consultants who have prepared reports for them. For the last two and half years of my life, I have consumed my life with this proposal. I have spent over 1,000 hours in the last 24 months alone on items that relate to this project. I am a CA, JP and a Partner at an Accounting firm, but I am still under 30 years old so I don't have luxury of part time retirement or similar to juggle my time. I am well versed on economics and the affects of multipliers and what a new business/project can bring to a town. Unfortunately I've also had to deal with the pieces of when a short term artificial growth to a small economy ends. I've dealt with people making millions, and I've dealt with families losing everything. I can whole heartedly state that in my opinion, this proposal will negatively impact the long term economic and social sustainability of Blayney and deliver nothing but negatives to the community of Kings Plains.

Prior to buying at kings Plains, we lived in Bathurst for 6 years. I worked from Bathurst, Blayney and Orange throughout these years and had not heard of a Company called Regis Resources, or a proposal called McPhillamys. When purchasing from the "The Professionals Real Estate" in Bathurst, we were not advised of potential drilling or a mine just metres from our property. Nor did our solicitor, a local firm in Orange know about the potential of a mine. Subsequently our solicitor explained that searches performed at the time of purchase were within standard criteria and no properties around ours were owned by any mining enterprises. The block we purchased had been previously purchased as a parcel from a subdivision of lots in the area. The lack of awareness about the project from someone who had worked in Blayney, Bathurst and Orange and worked in the business community the entire time since Regis owned the property, speaks to the lack of awareness that Regis were raising at a local level. There was nothing that would make someone aware of what was potentially going to happen.

After purchasing the property, we intended to stagger the development to prevent over capitalising on the property. We submitted a DA to construct a temporary dwelling that we could reside in short term until our finances got to a point we were happy to progress with the first house – projected to be completed by the end of 2018 at latest. This temporary dwelling, better known as a shed, was approved in June 2016. After a very wet year that significantly hindered construction, we finally received the occupancy certificate in March of 2017. Not long after this we started to see and hear machinery movement on the hills directly

opposite our block. We spoke to the neighbours about what was going on to which they advised there's a mine across the highway but we don't know anything about it. The neighbours were very casual about it (as they didn't know much either) so we didn't think too much of it, thinking it was something small or non-existent. It wasn't until October of 2017 that we became semi-aware of what was going on. A group in Orange advertised on Facebook that Regis Resources was coming to speak to them about the proposed mine in Kings Plains. My wife went along with two of our neighbours. The Regis representatives at the event claimed to have spoken with nearly all of the residents in Kings Plains and told them what was going on. My wife and neighbours advised this was not the case and the representatives downgraded their assertion stating they're still getting around to everyone. My wife left the meeting with an assurance we would be contacted within days. She was very anxious about what she had heard at the meeting and advised me of what they explained. It was weeks before we finally spoke with someone from Regis Resources. It was 18 months from when we purchased our property, to when the proponent spoke to us, and it wasn't because they came to us, it was because we happened to stumble on an event they were speaking at that was being promoted by the group, not Regis. We finally got to explain to the proponent what our situation was and we heard the basics of their proposal. Without any assurances from the proponent, we made the decision to defer any further spending on our property until we knew what was going on with the proposal. This property was going to be the property that we raise a family on, that we grow old, die and leave to our children.

After explaining to Regis that we had put everything on hold until we knew what the outcome was, they advised to go ahead and build. I had to explain to them that if we sink several hundreds of thousands of dollars into a property and the proposal is approved, and we decide we can't live there, who's going to buy the property from us? To which we received no answer. This was a recurring conversation with them to which they always declined it would be them. They stated one of their employees may come and buy it. Given I wouldn't want to try and sleep during the day while on nightshift less a km from dump trucks, dozers and explosions, we doubted it. Additionally, if they were that sure of an employee wanting to buy it, why didn't they buy it in the first place? We were told to continue our constructions without any guarantees. As such, we have not. We continue to reside in the shed and we haven't done anything with our property. Had the proponent worked closer with us, or had the proponent not be proposing a mine, we would be living in the first house by now, and would be in the process of finalising drawings and plans for the second. Children would be 3-4 years away. There would be established gardens on the property and a sealed driveway. Our family wouldn't have to stay in their caravans when they visit and we would have more guests.

We went on a site visit once and the reps took us to their pit. We told them that we could see our property from the pit to which they doubted. We took them back to our property, to where the second dwelling would be constructed and looked towards the proposed pit, and sure enough, they then agreed that we could see the pit. In their explanations of how we would be affected, they see it all as either impacts at the end of the project, or being within regulation. They say the waste rock and amenity bund will be vegetated, it will be loaded with top soil and it will be green. This isn't the case for years. And even though best case scenario, 8 years down the track it starts to grow shrubs, that's still eight years of us looking at dirt, exposed rock and dust. Noise will be within limits they say. Well that's fine to say, but when the limit is 10db louder than what we're used to sleeping with, that's not acceptable. Dust is within EPA limits; again it's still more than what we have now. We live off one water tank at the moment. If any form of toxins go into our drinking water, then what? We planned a veggie garden but that won't happen if it'll be coated in a fine dusting of toxins from the waste rock, pit and TSF. The regulatory requirements for projects don't differentiate for city or rural areas. This is not the city. We do not have heavy emissions on our properties or loud noises around us. We live here for a reason and this proposal will take it all away. Any increase in noise, dust, light or visual amenity is not acceptable from a proponent claiming to be part of the community.

To this day, we have no agreements with the proponent and therefore remain where we are. This is delaying our entire life's plans. This subsequently causes issues for our family. As I type my parents are now staying in their caravan on our property, when they could be inside our house with us. They don't visit in winter due to the weather and their vans not being capable of keeping them warm in those temperatures. We can't have guests or friends stay over and it's isolating us from our social network. We can't host dinners with such a small space, we can't have friends with newborns around as there's nowhere to keep the baby out of the way/isolated to sleep and we can't enjoy ourselves in an established entertaining area. This has been our life for the past two and half years, and there's no end in sight. This continues to delay our entire life's plan, including having children.

Mitigation methods will not be sufficient. All the proponent comes up with is air conditioning and glazed windows. They seem to ignore the entire nature of why we purchased out here, being for the fresh air and

cool breezes. If I wanted to be stuck in my house with a/c blasting, I'd move to a hot capital city. They have a mentality that by offering mitigation, albeit changing the entire nature of the purpose we live there, that they've done a good job. They refuse to look at compensation measures for those that have been heavily impacted already. I myself am behind where I should be for work purposes. KPI's are down, results are down and new work isn't coming in at the rate it should be. Furthering my education was delayed due to the time spent on this proposal which saw the delay in a new service line offering for our firm. All of this costing us significantly in revenue streams due to delays.

Regis has not been forthcoming in their efforts of consultation. They have not put us at ease with anything they say; likely due to their history of lying and the fact the EIS fails to answer most of the things I've previously been concerned about, and instead, raised more concerns. Despite the proponent constantly claiming to be in consultation with nearby neighbours, I am always calling representatives for information after finding out about things that are released to the public. One such item is the VLAMP agreements. The EIS is released and we haven't been spoken to. I read in the EIS that our property is one of a dozen, or 15 depending on the appendix you read, to be covered by VLAMP agreements. I called the reps and asked what the story is. The response was that they'll be talking with us in the next few weeks. The proponent does not or is choosing not to understand or comprehend what our community is going through.

I also want to note that due to the very short time frame to make submissions, this one came second to the one I wrote on behalf of our members for the BHPG. I was left with just a couple of hours to put this together. How the DPIE expects a full time employed individual to read over 6,000 pages of a document and formulate a structured succinct response is beyond me. I don't know what I would have done if I had children to care for as well.

Our life is on hold while Regis Resources plays its games to convince a minority of people in Blayney that causing all of this destruction and damage is worth a few dollars. They have made no real efforts to help us move on in life and are quite clearly very hesitant to spend any money on helping out their nearby neighbours whose lives they're destroying. What a great neighbour to have.

Daniel Sutton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Daniel Sutton', written in a cursive, flowing style.