

I wish to lodge my objections to the presence of Regis Resources Limited (Regis) McPhillamy Gold Project in the Kings Plain district of Central West New South Wales.

Between Blayney and Bathurst is a little village called Kings Plains. Neighbours include Carcoar Dam and the state-heritage listed and world-class limestone karst features of the Cliefden Caves.

Blayney and environs – People who border on this mine will live with a change from rural aspect to an industrial zone, blasting, noise, dust, vibration. It can take a toll on the health mentally, it breaks down a community. The proximity to the town will exploit and uproot the community, cause many a generation to resettle, destroy livelihoods, culture and its history. The area is populated, agricultural rich, geological endowed and diverse in natural wildlife.

Regis Resources previous mining experience has been remote region of Western Australia and the company seems to have difficulty appreciating the different problems that mining in a closely settled region involves. The gold is low grade and does not justify the destruction of the natural beauty and livelihood of the area, let alone the possibility of providing an avenue for further mines and annihilation of the flora and fauna.

The authenticity of the Environmental Impact Assessment is questionable.

It is absolutely crucial that an Independent Investigating Committee be set up, conducted by a diverse group of qualified and impartial scientists without any conflicts of interest.

It is ludicrous to accept that the solutions of the Study, submitted Regis and ticked off by bureaucrats, contain submissions which are unbiased, scientifically proven and have included all possible areas of detriment.

The environmental impact on the surrounding area is totally unacceptable on a number of fronts:

- Water – it is horrendous in this drought disaster that we even contemplate any water wastage [Regis: “13GL of the 33GL of groundwater licences in this zone have remained unused even in drought conditions”.... “At this point we don’t see a cross connection because we are accessing surplus groundwater that is currently discharged or stored.”]. Mining requires enormous amounts of water. “To produce the gold in one wedding ring, for example, requires 8,000 litres of water.” What happens when more water is needed? Is more agriculture and livestock to suffer as the mining epidemic spreads.

The ground water leases should be mobilised and utilised by the drought affected farmers not left to pollute the river and land. In fact, every drop of available water, even waste water, should be examined for possible reuse within the drought structure. Using Lachlan River water access licences and allowing unregulated water licences is an environmental disaster in the offing.

Yet the same authority which denies drought-stricken farmers access to an overflowing river on their doorstep, is willing to risk that the dam walls full of contaminated water on the proposed McPhillamy Gold Project site, could fail, or water seep into a river that feeds into the Murray-Darling Basin system.

- Chemical Pollution- The cyanide leaching and other toxic chemicals released into the air during the processes will bring diseases and death to crops, fish, animals and humans. Further contamination of native bushland and flora will affect the quality and sustainability of the massive bee production north of Blayney. Chemicals leaching into the groundwater survive and destroy for many years.

Businesses that have been in the area, some for generations, are entitled to a right of passage over a supposedly short-lived environmental disaster.

- Air pollution - through dust will affect those already vulnerable and effect future respiratory illnesses and eye/skin irritations. In particular, the unavoidable and undesirable legacy which Regis

Resources will inflict on small children and unborn babies, present and future. Another asbestos or thalidomide epidemic waiting to unravel.

On windy days, the spread of dust and pollutants is magnified to areas not considered in the EIS from Regis Resources. 24/7 monitoring needs to be real time not reports averaged out over the week/month. People live days not averages.

- Noise - the continuous noise has been shown to be detrimental to human health. The company solution of 'paying for double glazing' does little to eliminate noise outside for humans and livestock. Production and quality of meat and milk will be affected. Producing a premium product requires a premium lifestyle, production and landscape.
- Traffic – increased traffic over community roads increases maintenance costs which will inevitably be thrust on the constituents. The potential for accidents in a country community is magnified not to mention the consistent noise of trucks 'up and down hills'.
- Visual Impacts – McPhillamy Hill will not be remembered for its historical contribution but for its ugliness and destruction of landscape.
- Deforestation - on any level will impact on the region's biological diversity and wildlife habitat . The noise, dust, vibrations and erosion will affect/destroy all fauna and flora populations.
- Tailings Disposal - involves the dumping of dangerous mine waste into waterways via dams, causing serious health and environmental damage to fish, native species recognising the dam as a watering hole.
- Future Assurances – vacuous statements of "we will do this, if.....happens" or "don't worry it will be okay" are vacuous statements, quickly forgotten when the profit runs dry.. What comeback do the landowners have many years onwards dealing with the contaminated earth deteriorating the quality of livestock and crops?
- Processes involved in comments such as "the risks could be managed." (re to use cyanide to recover gold) are not explicit enough and require investigation by impartial scientists.
- The promise of huge potential income is inversely proportional to the real costs of rehabilitating the landscape.
- What are the real costs to the health of the society and the land?
- Will Regis take care of the natural and social wasteland left behind for the next 100 years?
Not likely!

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