

Ms Elle Clémentine
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Via email: Elle.Clementine@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Clémentine

**SSD 9505 – MCPHILLAMYS GOLD PROJECT – BLANEY SHIRE, CABONNE SHIRE,
LITHGOW CITY AND BATHURST REGIONAL LGA – EIS – REQUEST FOR ADVICE**

I refer to an email dated 10 September 2019 from Planning, Industry & Environment requesting Heritage Council advice on the State Significant Development project (SSD 9505).

The SSD seeks consent for the development of an open cut mine and a water supply pipeline in relation to the proposed McPhillamys Gold Project.

The following documents have been reviewed:

- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, McPhillamys Gold Project (EIS), prepared for LFB Resources NL by EMM Consulting, dated 27 August 2019.
- MINE DEVELOPMENT ABORIGINAL AND HISTORICAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT, (AHCHA) McPhillamys Gold Project, prepared for LFB Resources NL by Landskape Natural and Cultural Heritage Management, dated July 2019 [Appendix P].

The SEARs for the Project were issued on 19 December 2018. It is noted that the site of the proposal does not include the curtilage of any State Heritage Register (SHR) items, nor is the site in the immediate vicinity of any SHR items.

A SEAR was included requiring a heritage impact assessment and an archaeology assessment prepared by a suitably qualified historical archaeologist in accordance with the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage Assessment Guidelines (1996), Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics (2009).

Built Heritage

It is noted that Hallwood Farm Complex is one of eleven sites located within the direct disturbance footprint and the only site to be identified that may be of State significance. The AHCHA found that except for Hallwood Farm Complex, the disturbance to the sites within the mine project area would not greatly impact the historic heritage value of the area or region or cause cumulative impact.

The EIS states both the AHCHA (Landskape 2019) and the Stage 1 Report by Christo Aitken and Associates (2019) [Appendix 5 of Appendix P], recommend that due to the potential state significance of Hallwood Farm Complex, harm must be avoided by modifying the

proposed ancillary water management facility footprint. A detailed assessment and conservation management plan is also recommended. This is considered appropriate.

- The mitigation measures outlined in Section 9.2 and Table 9.2 of Appendix P relating to built heritage are considered appropriate and should be included in any approval.

It is noted that in addition to the Mine development Project Area there is the pipeline corridor that traverses the LGAs of Lithgow, Bathurst and Blaney from the Blue Mountains to the mine development. The assessment of the historic heritage for the pipeline development found that of the 20 locally listed heritage items within 1km of the pipeline corridor. No Historic heritage items will be directly impacted by the pipeline development.

Historical Archaeology

The Historic archaeological potential and the impact of proposed works are addressed in the Aboriginal and Historical Cultural Heritage Assessment (AHCHA) at Appendix P of the EIS. The AHCHA makes notes that there are approximately 6 possible historical archaeological sites of potential local significance (MGP-H4a, 4b, 5, 9, 18 & 19) within the study area. The AHCHA then recommends the following:

- Archaeological subsurface testing at these sites to ascertain archaeological significance and
 - Archaeological salvage excavation and recording prior to development taking place if these sites will be impacted by the proposal.
- Based on the above it is recommended that the following conditions of consent be included to manage the potential archaeological resource:
 - a) Prior to test excavations taking place the Applicant shall submit an Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced historical which outlines the nature of the archaeological programme, proposed artefact analysis and the research questions to be answered by the archaeological programme.
 - b) The Applicant shall submit the name of a suitably qualified and experienced Excavation Director to undertake the archaeological testing programme who is able to satisfy the Excavation Director Criteria of the Heritage council of NSW for the proposed activity and significance level.
 - c) Following the archaeological testing programme, the Applicant and Excavation Director must submit a report detailing the results of a testing programme which includes a re-evaluation of the significance of the archaeological sites and determines whether a salvage excavation is warranted.

The AHCHA also recommends:

- An unexpected finds protocol if previously unidentified Aboriginal or historical cultural heritage sites are encountered during construction;
- A skeletal remains protocol for if human skeletal remains are encountered during activities associated with the mine development; and
- That these management strategies are to be integrated into a single program and document in the form of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for the project which must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual.

In addition, this CHMP must clearly indicate all heritage items in the vicinity of, and in the project area, provides a statement of significance for each item and a list of the agreed impact mitigation and management strategies that will remain active for the life of the mine development.

- The above three recommendations are considered appropriate and should be included as conditions of consent.

If you have any questions regarding this advice related to McPhillamys Gold Mine please contact James Quoyale, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer at Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet on 9873 8612 or at James.Quoyale@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cheryl Brown
Manager, Northern Region
Heritage NSW
Department of Premier and Cabinet
As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council