

**Blayney Shire Council**

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23 October 2020

Mr Steve O'Donoghue
Director Resource Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment NSW
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Via email: **Stephen.ODonoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au**

Dear Mr O'Donoghue

Re: McPhillamys Gold Mine Project Submissions Report September 2020

Council has reviewed both the Response to Submissions and Amendment Reports for the State Significant Development Application no SSD-9505, EPBP ID No 2019/8452 as published on NSW Planning Major Projects website.

It is acknowledged the McPhillamys Gold Mine proposal if approved will generate significant economic development, business investment and employment growth for the Central West region and NSW, which Council supports. Council has a long history of a productive working relationship with a gold mining company in the Shire and Council will continue to represent and advocate for the community to ensure that these opportunities are delivered in the Blayney Shire.

Consultation

Since February 2020, Regis Resources have maintained ongoing consultation with Council about the mitigation strategies and project design changes as proposed in the Response to Submissions and subsequent Amendment Report. Council has an appointed delegate to the McPhillamys Gold Project Community Consultative Committee which has been meeting on a regular basis throughout the current pandemic, in accordance with its COVID safety plan.

Regis has continued to communicate with Council and the wider community via newsletters and direct engagement with various stakeholders; in particular the Orange360 Accommodation network and Kings Plains residents.

Amendment Report

In regards to Amendment Report provided by LFB Resources NL (Regis Resources) Blayney Shire Council notes and supports;

- The new mine site access off the Mid Western Highway to the eastern end of the proposed mine operation.
- Mitigation strategies to reduce noise impact including rescheduling of mine and rock placement and pit amenity bund.

- Improved water management, redesign and safety measures of the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF).
- Revision of mine administration and infrastructure layout to reduce visual impacts.

Response to Submissions

In regards to the issues raised by Council and addressed in the Response to Submissions by Regis Resources, Blayney Shire Council notes and supports;

- The strategies to engage with housing and tourism operators to manage workforce demands for accommodation and a commitment to support the Orange360 Accommodation network.
- The commitment by Regis to construct and seal the first 550m of Dungeon Road to Council's Rural Local Access engineering standard. This change in road standard is conditional upon the road not being used for mine access at any point and the sealing is for social amenity for the adjoining residents.
- Permanent road closure of Dungeon Road from the mine boundary to the length within the Blayney Local Government Area
- Purchase of the Dungeon Road asset by Regis at an agreed negotiated sale price.
- Traffic Management Plan implementation for the Shire's road networks in particular Blayney Town, Guyong and Vittoria Roads for the construction period and operation of the development.
- Workforce and employment strategies to provide opportunities for local businesses to be engaged in the project.
- The commitment by Regis for Council to be involved in a multi-stakeholder group to facilitate the most productive and innovative post mine land use options, given the infrastructure (water, power, buildings) that will be installed for the mine operations is welcomed, and could be strengthened via a condition.

Voluntary Planning Agreement

Regis Resources and Blayney Shire Council have commenced formal negotiations and are in the process of jointly preparing a voluntary Planning Agreement. It is anticipated that this draft Planning Agreement with an Explanatory Note, will be endorsed at the November 2020 Council meeting and placed on public exhibition as per the NSW DPIE Planning Agreements Practice Note (April 2020).

Council reaffirms its position that any Planning Agreement should be executed between 2 partners only; being Regis Resources (LFB Resources NL) and Blayney Shire Council.

Lithgow, Cabonne, Orange City and Bathurst Regional Councils will receive only benefits from this project, whereas if approved, it is the Blayney Shire local government area that will be affected by 100% of the impact for the life of the operation and post mine closure.

Any dilution of the proposed VPA would not be supported by Blayney Shire Council.

Assessment Rigour

Council reiterates the need for the assessment process to provide the rigour and due diligence to ensure that the mitigation of risk associated with a TSF are tested independently with any adverse impacts considered and addressed. It is important that measures are in place for ongoing compliance with monitoring and enforcement of prescribed conditions if the project is approved.

Kings Plains

While our community generally appreciates the economic activity that a new mine will bring, these benefits however comes at a cost to a number of our residents. Council remains concerned for the people who live at Kings Plains, and appreciate that it is they who will be required to change their future plans as they deal with the impact and disruption of a proposed mine that is so close to their homes.

Council welcomes the commitment by Regis Resources to implementing negotiated agreements with identified land holders in Kings Plains. Consideration should be given to undertaking more work in assessing the potential impact on affected land holders not in this initial catchment area.

Public Hearing

Council is seeking a commitment from the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) that the Public Hearing is hosted physically in Blayney, to ensure local residents are provided equitable access to present their case. Allowing for the current NSW Public Health requirements of the 4sqm rule, Council's Community Centre facility will hold 138 people with the capacity to include video and audio presence concurrently.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Ryan', followed by a period.

Rebecca Ryan
General Manager