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NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment

To whom it may Concern

RE: Opposition to the McPhillamys Proposed Mine Project at Kings Plains NSW 2795

I oppose the development of the McPhillamys Proposed Mine Project at Kings Plains NSW 2795 due to the following;

Aboriginal Cultural History Impacts.

This proposed mine will cause irreversibly detrimental impacts on the Kings Plains Aboriginal cultural landscape, a location of State and National significance where numerous encounters between the Wiradjuri (including warrior Windradyne/Saturday) and European stockmen occurred in 1823, which culminated in the Bathurst Wars in 1824, and eventually the proclamation of martial law by Governor Thomas Brisbane in late 1824. This series of events and responses by the NSW Government created a template for similar responses to Aboriginal resistance in the state and other parts of Australia.

The Kings Plain cultural landscape is significant for its contribution to our understanding of the shared history of Aboriginal people and European people and links to Elders and ancestor's past. It should be treated with the same respect as locations of other major historical battles such as Gallipoli and Battle of The Somme, which postdate the frontier wars between the Wiradjuri and European people at Kings Plains, and similar conflicts that occurred in other parts of the NSW Central West Region.

This area also contains Aboriginal ancestral remains.

This area is significant to my personal journey in discovering my Aboriginal Heritage, I have a strong connection to the Country at Kings Plains and its significance and connection to Elders past such as, Tiboroo, Billy Lambert and other Aboriginal warriors that fought against European settlement of this area.

Significance Related to Early Political History of Australia

This area has direct links to the developing early Government and management of Aboriginal and early Settler Australians the events that occurred here are significant to how policies and legislation was developed in these early years of European settlement. The management of the Kings Plains area was overseen by Governor Thomas Brisbane, Major Goulburn - Colonial Secretary, Lieutenant Lawson Commandant and Magistrate, Judge John Wylde, Lieutenant George Thomas Palmer and Reverend Samuel Marsden, all significant individuals in Australian History

George Thomas Palmer being my 4 x Great Grandfather gives me a secondary connection to this landscape and I strongly believe the protection of this history and opportunity to further research the significance of Kings Plains to Australian political history should be ensured.

Environmental Impacts.

Negative Impacts to the Belubula River

I strongly oppose the proposed mine development due to many Environmental concerns including on the Belubula River and on the waterways of Aboriginal communities downstream of the study area.

The proposed mine sits on the headwaters of the Belubula River, with a c. 300 ha proposed tailings dam to be sit atop numerous natural spring tributaries to the Belubula River. This would prevent the flow of water into the Belubula River, Carcoar Dam and Lachlan River, but also jeopardise the water quality. As the McPhillamys EIS states, "The majority of surveyed sites are Type 1 highly sensitive key fish habitat. The mine development will result in the direct impact of removal of key fish habitat associated with the Belubula River within the disturbance footprint."

The impact of the proposed development will extend beyond the Belubula River Catchment into the Lachlan River and its aquifers and flows, and onto the already severely degraded Murray Darling River system.

In essence, the proposed development will impact major and minor waterways which are sacred to the local Aboriginal community and other Aboriginal communities in the region and downstream.

Many communities down stream are reported to be facing having no water at all. The Belubula River catchment has historically been known as a high rainfall area; however these figures have significantly reduced over past years. Due to the climate in this region which still sees occasionally heavy snowfalls and high rainfall than other areas, it's contribution to the water flows into the Murray darling basin should be secured, any interfering with the complex underground spring system is extremely negligent particularly in these difficult times of desperate water security. Impacting on one of the few left natural contributing river systems to the Murray Darling would be inconceivable.

Negative impacts from the proposed water pipeline;

I oppose the construction of the water pipeline to serve the McPhillamys Project due to the saline content of the water and the potential of this water to negatively impact on the Kings Plains landscape, the Belubula River and catchments further downstream. This water was previously pumped from Centennial Coal Springvale and Angus Place Collieries in a partnership set up between Delta Electricity and Centennial Coal, to be used at Wallerawang power station for process cooling, in 2008 Wallerawang power station was closed with \$35 million dollars' damage due to the use of this saline water.

Negative impact for Native Species:

I oppose due to the clearing and disturbance of habitat for threatened species as follows;

- Removal of 132.36ha of native vegetation and fauna habitat, of which:
 - 129.3ha comprises habitat for the Squirrel Glider, listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act;
 - 75.77ha comprises habitat for Koala listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act and EPBC Act;
 - 44.2 ha (PCT1330) represents White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland EEC listed under the BC ACT: and
 - 18.5 ha represents White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland and Derived Native Grasslands CEEC under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBCAct).

This impact on the local Koala and Squirrel Glider Colonies through further destruction of habitat given the Koala particularly is struggling to survive in NSW is irresponsible.

This location forms part of a corridor through from the Great Eastern Ranges to the Western plains which has been a long term focus for local environmental groups improving corridor connectivity for these and other native species, achieved through State and Federal government funded projects. This area has been part of a mapping program via Central Tablelands Local Land Services so that targeted revegetation projects can be developed.

Disturbance of naturally occurring asbestos.

I oppose the development of the proposed mine due to the disturbance of naturally occurring Asbestos and the threat this poses to public health and to the local honeybee industry.

The approval of this mine will impact on many areas of the natural and local environment and it has the potential to negatively impact the local tourism industry including Aboriginal Cultural Heritage tourism.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Paton