

Submission against the Regis McPhillamy Gold Mine

I am against the proposed Regis McPhillamy gold mine due to the following reasons:

The water is to be pumped via a 90km pipeline from three highly corrosive sources, Angus Place, Centennial Coal and then Brine concentrate from the Mt Piper Power station water treatment facility. Below is some history on these 'water' sources which can all be verified, through NSW government Hansard, independent testing, EPA and Mt Piper power station employees.

~ sometime prior to 2006 Delta Electricity in partnership with Centennial Coal constructed pumping stations and pipeline to transfer untreated saline mine water from Springvale and Angus Place Collieries to Wallerawang power station (Springvale-Delta Water Transfer Scheme)

- Saline mine water was used untreated into Wallerawang power station for process cooling etc., this earned Centennial Coal and Delta the Department of Energy's Green Globe Award
- As the Springvale-Delta Water Transfer Scheme was only used infrequently Delta Electricity had to pay a pollutant fee of \$397000 for releasing 6500tonnes of salt into the water in 2007
- Independent tests were carried out on the water discharged and was found to contain high levels of heavy metals, including copper, boron, aluminium and arsenic.
- Cox's river is dead and devoid of macro-invertebrates for 18km from the discharge point.
- 2008 Wallerawang power station was closed with **\$35 million dollars'** damage, which included condensers, boiler tubes and turbines. This also included the collapse of the cooling tower due to the foreseeable, predictable and avoidable highly corrosive effects of the salty water on plant at the Wallerawang power station.
- A further **\$25 million dollars'** for the demolition of the power station was required.
- A RO plant was installed at Mt Piper power station to treat the saline mine water which treats 80% of the water and the treated water is pumped into Thompsons creek dam for use by the Mt Piper power station. The remaining 20% is Brine concentrate, which is one of the sources for the Regis McPhillamy's Gold project.
- Michael Coote from Regis has informed me on Friday that Regis can pump 'water' from either pumping station 1, 2, or 3 independently, to supply water to the Gold mine. 1 Is Angus Place, 2 is Centennial Coal and 3 is the Brine concentrate at Mt Piper.
- The NSW Government has enforced a s324 restricted water usage from 1 October 2019, to maintain supplies to critical human and high priority needs in the Belubula Regulated River Water Source.

This order is necessary to maintain or protect water levels in an aquifer, or

To improve the quality of water in an aquifer, or

To prevent land subsidence or compaction in an aquifer, or

To protect groundwater dependent ecosystems, or

To maintain pressure, or to ensure pressure recovery, in an aquifer.

The Minister may, by order in writing, direct that, within a specified area and for a specified period, the taking of water from that aquifer, or from any other aquifer that is above, below or adjacent to that aquifer, is prohibited, or is subject to specified restrictions, as the case requires.

The Regis McPhillamy project proposes to permanently seal springs feeding the Belubula with concrete. The open pit will cut through the aquifers feeding the Belubula system, and result in permanent irreversible damage to the Belubula headwaters.

The transfer of heavily laden saline water has the potential to poison the river system, and cause irreversible damage to the agricultural country surrounding Blayney and further downstream into the Lachlan river system.

Philip John New

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