

Submission to DPIE

Name of application- McPhillamys gold mine project

Application Number- SSD-9505

I OBJECT to the proposal

Reason for Objection: Pretty much everything.

Tony Newman

My parents originally owned this 9 ac portion of land. It has been in the family for the last 24 years. It was part of a much larger property consisting of 300 acres.

I have lived here for 15 years and purchased the property during this time. I have many reasons for living on this amazing parcel of land. I currently work in Blayney which takes me 8 minutes to commute from door to door. I spend quite a-bit of time in Bathurst, taking just 20 minutes to the centre of town. I have immediate access to the highway, which is very convenient. I have amazing views overlooking Mount Canobolas to the west and beautiful rolling hills to the north and south, all from my front door. Actually, this all can be seen from inside my main living room due to large amounts of glass. I also practice Biodynamics, meaning it's a chemical free environment on this property and have an interest in growing food and study the relationship between stress and the physical body. My property is basically my mini lab for understanding the connection of these

combined principles. I'm also creating habitat areas for wild animals with good results. So based on some of the interest i have, many concerns regarding this project have come to light.

A list of some concerns are-

Noise and vibration

Dust

Water

Contamination

Visual

Hazards

Rehabilitation and environmental

Asbestos

Noise

The objectives of the Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment are as follows-

- Identify the closest and/or potentially most affected receivers situated within the area of influence to the project.
- Review construction activities to identify noise generating plant, equipment, machinery or activities proposed to be undertaken that have the potential to exceed construction noise management levels (NML's) during standard construction hours and out of hours period.

- Review operating activities to identify noise generating plant, equipment, machinery or activities proposed to be undertaken that have the potential to exceed Project Noise Trigger Levels (PNTL) for all operating periods.
- Utilise 3D noise modelling to predict noise levels that may occur as a result of the construction and operation of the project at the closest and/or potentially most affected receptors.
- Provide feasible and REASONABLE noise mitigation and management measures, and monitoring options, where NML's may be exceeded.
- Assess the potential noise impacts associated with operation of the mine development and provide a comparison of predicted noise levels against the PNTLs; and
- Assess the potential for blasting impacts from the operation of the Mine Development and provide a comparison with the relevant blasting emissions criteria.

Based on these objectives by Muller Acoustic Consulting and EMM Consulting on behalf of Regis Resources, i find the actions of these consulting companies extremely perplexing due to the placement of the acoustic devices. As a sensitive receptor, location R16, page 34 in appendices L-O volume 6, no acoustic device was placed for the monitoring of my property and Evan and Brenda Leitch R18. We are situated, and i would like to emphasize the fact we are over the hill on the eastern side of monitoring device MAC03, with the distance to my residence being approximately 1.3 kilometres. My northern boundary on the Mid Western Highway is approximately 100 metres from Regis resources boundary. The amended main entry to mine

site will be approximately 200 metres, and the waste rock emplacement will be approximately 300-400 metres. Considering that Regis will be building a 30 plus metre high amenity bund, taking minimum two years to construct, directly across the road from my property, I'm finding it hard to comprehend why a acoustic monitoring device was not placed in our valley. Due to the lack of monitoring equipment in our area would easily indicate why myself, Evan and Brenda Leitch did not qualify for Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy (VLAMP). Also perplexing is that David and Fran Standing did qualify for VLAMP, property R17. Quoting Pauline Hanson, please explain??????????????

Another issue that will arise from the construction of the amenity bund and Waste Rock Emplacement, due to it 'size, will be the increased noise that this bund will reflect back to my property from all vehicles travelling along this highway.

I also believe that the amenity bund will not stop the noise to my property from the haul trucks travelling, reversing and dumping product. As you would be aware, all mine vehicles are fitted with back up beepers (reversing beepers). Based on my research, typically they produce 1000hz pure tone beeps at 97-112 decibels, considerably higher than the long-term hearing loss limit of 80 decibels. And based on the predicted haul truck movements that will occur over the road from my property, it will equate to stress from diminished sleep patterns and constant annoyance during the day, leading to long term mental health issues... Which by the way have been going on for a couple of years now due to the increased stress levels

place on us by this Regis Resources project. I currently am affected by headaches and a lack of sleep due to the constant fear and uncertainty of my future. This happens on a weekly basis. Another question i would like a response to is- Will Regis Resources be doing a Dilapidation survey on every house and structure within the mine vicinity, and of course paid by Regis? It is a property assessment report which provides a visual record of constructional and cosmetic fabric defects. This will need to be undertaken before major earthworks or mining takes place. There are professional surveyors for this.

And another question i have for Regis Resources, has Muller Acoustic Consulting tested for INFRASOUND? This is a low frequency sound, less than 20 HZ, which is well below the usual limit of human hearing. It was/is an issue to the Ulan Coal mine and often with wind turbines. It gets around obstacles such as bund walls. It can affect the nervous system giving feelings of unease, annoyance, sleeping disturbance, imitate heart attacks etc. It can also be caused by diesel engines and explosives.

Yet another issue i have is what the DPIE and EPA feel is an acceptable increase in background noise the residents will now have to endure. I feel ANY INCREASE in background decibels produced by the mine operation above what we currently live with, should be considered as an increase and therefore fall under VLAMP. You must remember that we have not purchased properties during the operation of a mine, Regis Resources DO NOT currently have approval to operate. Therefore, to ask all residents that surround the mine to now accept constant elevated noise levels is totally unrealistic. We all live in this beautiful part of the central west for a reason, and the new increase in constant noise conditions that will be

placed on the near-by residents for mining purposes is completely unacceptable. We live here because of the low level of noise. I would therefore ask Regis to now establish new base line data in our valley for residence R16 and R18, using noise modelling equipment for a true understanding of the impacts on our properties. We would also appreciate this modelling lasting longer than 9 days, like the last study. Based on what I'm learning about acoustic modelling, the seasons affect outcomes, so why would the study not be over twelve months??

Visual

What will be difficult for the DPIE is, to get an accurate visual concept of my property from just photos. These photos won't relay the amazing view i have and the peaceful emotions i feel when i look over this beautiful landscape. I not only get this from the western view, but also the north, south and eastern aspects. I cannot relay these wonderful feelings i have for this area, but i can give you an idea of what my devastating future looks like. This has brought me much grief, anger, rage and frustration thinking about the environmental destruction this mine will bring to our small but peaceful community. This is such a visually stunning piece of farm land, and should not be destroyed for the purpose of just gold mining. If we can put this into some perspective...

Mining gold is an environmental disaster! And yes, we do need it for a couple of genuine reason. I'm not anti- mining, I just feel we don't need this many operating in the world at the moment. Considering we cannot eat it, i feel it's not that important. We store it for financial purpose which is based on our fear around money, or a lack of when times are tough. Because we all mostly want to be individuals in this world, rather than work together as one people when times are bad. And the big one is jewellery. When we as a world are so caught up in our facade selves, serving that ego side of ourselves it creates more demand on this precious resource which in turn creates more environmental destruction, hence Regis wanting to build another mine. And that's just basic greed. But like everything in nature, gold would have a purpose. And being one of the best conductors of energy, what would you feel that purpose may be????

Here's a break-up of gold's global demand per annum

Jewelry	52.44%
Total bar and coin	25.29%
Central bank net purchases	4.98%
Electronics	9.12%
Other industrial	6.52%
Dentistry	1.24%
ETFs and similar	0.41%

So out of this list shown above, what do we really need??

Electronics? Yes we do. Other Industrial? maybe. Let's throw it in.
Dentistry? Not really, we have other products for that now.
The rest of those, not needed.

So the total annual need for gold is about 15.64% . So again, how many gold mines do we really need???

So, when we look at the resources Regis will need to produce its gold in this area the figures are frightening. Not to mention the environmental impact it will have in Kings Plains due to contamination and the affect it will most definitely have on the Belubula River and downstream to the Lachlan and beyond. The signs are there in front of you, please don't ignore them. We share this planet remember, and we need to stop our current course of extinction.

Water- Availability from the Lithgow area will be 15,000,000 litres per day. And that's PER DAY!!!

So, 15,000,000 lit x 365 days = 5,475,000,000 litres per year. And that's not including the water taken from bores on site and water they catch topically. Are we seriously going to let Regis Resources use this much water in our current drought crisis?! I sit here writing this document in complete disbelief that any company in Australia would consider doing something so selfish considering our water situation... I don't get it, i just don't get it.

Diesel- Regis diesel consumption will be approximately 16,000,000 litres per year. Which equates to approximately one b-double load of fuel per day.

Oil

Electricity- 26-28 megawatts per

And these are just the big- ticket items. That's not including machinery, tyres, the operating facilities, workshops, the pipeline from the Lithgow area etc etc. And then there's the short term and long-term environmental impact...OMG!! I feel our community has had the benefit of seeing the impacts mining can have in our area. The Cadia Valley Operation has brought economic benefits to our area but i now realise there was a great environmental cost involved. Hindsight is a wonderful gift, I just hope we use it in this situation.

Dust

How does Regis Resources plan to stop the dust consisting of heavy metals from the pit and waste rock emplacement, cyanide and more heavy metals from the tailings dam (TSF) and the potential of high, medium and low levels of asbestos has been found in the Vittoria State Forest next door to the propose mine, arriving at mine and other properties. Those three levels of potential asbestos cover the majority of the mine site. Asbestos warning signs are still in place in the forest currently, which raises major concerns for all that live around this mine. I realise that Regis Resources have done wind modelling for the affects that dust will have on the surrounding properties, but that's only modelling. And taking into consideration where the wind modelling device was placed, which I hope you will look at, I feel the results will not be a completely accurate assessment for all properties. Take my place for example, 300-400 metres away from an amenity bund and waste rock emplacement. And based on the winds that i experience from that direction, how will my property not be

affected by the range of contaminated products coming from Regis Resources. It's moronic to think it won't affect me. Therefore, as i have explained to Regis Resources on multiple times, our two worlds with vastly different principles cannot coexist.

Hazards

I will list these in point form-

- The entering and exiting of all vehicles to the mine site. I feel turn-off lanes will be required at a minimum before mining operation starts. We do get heavy fog in this area so i'm still concerned that may not be enough.
- Blasting! With the pit only being approximately 600 metres from the highway, how does Regis intend to control all fly rock from landing on vehicles driving along the highway. School bus services use this highway also. I am also concerned about the workers on the mine site being hit by fly rock. The operation of this mine is so compact in the design, that it would increase the possibility of staff and contractors being hit.
- Drivers looking in the direction of the mine due to curiosity whilst driving past. The distraction could cause a lack of concentration, therefore potentially resulting in accidents.

Rehabilitation

To quote the executive summary-

The overarching rehabilitation objective of the project is to restore the land as much as possible to its pre-mining land use at the end of its operational life...Sorry Regis, that's a big fat porky pie! (lie)

When Googling the meaning of "rehabilitation" it states as follows... –the action of restoring something that has been damaged to its former condition.

So will Regis restore this site to its former condition?... No! They also use the line- as much as possible. Would it be possible for Regis to return waste rock emplacement product back in the pit when the mining process is completed? Of course that is possible, if only it didn't cost so much! Which they did indicate to myself and others that's the reason they won't backfill the pit. That then leaves the Kings Plains community and Blayney Shire with a one kilometre wide, 460 metre deep contaminated water source. Thank you Regis for the rehabilitation!!! That also brings up other issues being the depth of the pit being below the water table which would cause a draw down affect. That would more than likely affect my bores volume and quality. I do not need contaminated bore water on my property considering what i'm trying to achieve. Not to mention the affect this contaminated product will have on other properties and our Belubula river.

Saline based water from the Lithgow area will be held in storage facilities (RAW WATER STORAGE) during the operation of the mine. Will this saline contaminated dam and other saline storage facilities be pumped dry, with the saline contaminated soil removed and remediated at the end of the mine life? Will soil testing be done over the whole mine site on completion to

establish saline contamination? And if testing is found to be high, what processes are in place?

Weeds- How does Regis intend to control weeds over the entire project? Especially the amenity bunds and waste rock emplacement, now that weed killing chemicals containing glyphosate are documented to cause cancer in humans. These products must not be used on site to protect the workers and the surrounding residents caused by drift. Also considering my property is directly opposite these amenity bunds and waste rock emplacements. Round up and other type products will adversely affect my soil, plant life and food i will be growing. Not to mention the affect it will potentially have on myself and others. No other adjoining properties surrounding the mine should have to manage another type of chemical contamination.

I also discovered that Regis will spray ants with a pesticide to stop them eating some of the product they will use to revegetate the amenity bunds and waste rock emplacements. Someone help me please!! First Regis destroy the ants home and habitat, making it hard for them to find food, water and shelter, the three main things we all need to survive. Then they spray them with a pesticide killing not only them but how many other sensitive insects, like bees and other wildlife, just because they are now short of food! CAN THIS MADNESS PLEASE STOP!!!!

Also, what about the native and non- native animals that drink from the almost 600 ac cyanide, heavy metal based, completely contaminated tailings dam. How many animals will that kill????

Plus, how many trees will be planted over the entire site during the mine life, and at completion for offset carbon purposes?

So, if we look at the carbon footprint Regis will leave behind after 15 years of operation, is this a sustainable practice? Also, based on our current global issues around greenhouse emissions, and realising that gold is not essential for the survival of our species, i feel this is not a justified project considering our current environmental status. And how many acres of habitat for wildlife will be created on that site? And who will be doing this work? Also, what does Regis intend to do with all native and non- native animals that will be displaced by their mining operation? Have Regis created new habitat areas for these animals? I have been told Regis has purchased some property to offset some of the native woodland (habitat) they will destroy. It's land they will use as a habitat area. The one thing that confuses me though is how do the current native and non- native animals that will be displaced get there? The newly purchased property is approximately 15 kilometres away from the mine on the southern side of Blayney. No wildlife corridors were created and i'm pretty sure they don't have a map or an opal card to catch the bus!!

If you read the rehabilitation section in appendix U, you will get some idea on how much environmental damage the mining process by Regis Resources will cause at this site.

Just writing this section on my environmental concerns has left me feeling really depleted and so angry thinking about the lack of respect this company has for anything on this planet. It's bad enough the way they treat people based on my personal experiences with them but to completely annihilate environmentally this amazing part of the world leaves me feeling very empty inside... It's just devastating. Please don't let this happen.

Asbestos

I have covered some of my concerns around asbestos in the dust section of my submission. What I do feel that needs to happen for the health and safety of all concerned, being the immediate residents, surrounding properties, forestry workers, businesses, and people travelling along both highways and local roads, is to do a comprehensive study on the whole Regis Resources site in relation to the potential asbestos problem. Based on the fact that Forestry NSW found asbestos in the Vittoria State Forest next door to Regis, warrants a study. Just because Regis indicated they didn't find any asbestos during their exploration drilling doesn't mean it's not there.

Conclusion

It's been seven years since Regis made its intention to proceed with this project. So I guess that's a long time to think about how we will potentially be affected. To live in limbo, not really knowing your future, creates all sorts of fears and stress about our uncertainty. This journey has been exceptionally taxing on my emotions and therefore my physical body. And there are plenty of others going through the same process. It is not something I have enjoyed at all. To have someone I've known for over 30 years to comment to me that this mining issues has changed me, leaving myself angry, frustrated and short, has me reflecting on how negative this process really is. I'm writing this two days out from the submission deadline and what I do love about being home today writing this piece, is spending time with my new friend, a 30- 40 cm skink who has taken

up residence just outside my front door. When I think about Frank the lizard, I think about all that he represents to me. I now provide shelter for him, with his new residence under the corner of my house in the garden. And water, with his new clay water vessel, that I will fill daily, that was made in Spain, it's very cool indeed! I believe we must create and protect habitat for all and everyone, both on land and in water. Not just humans but all life on earth. To continually keep destroying not only animal but human habitat at the rate we currently are is concerning and not sustainable. This mine may be insignificant in its environmental damage and justified by some, but to others it represents another portion of our home that's being polluted and destroyed. Just look at figure 1, the photo of Cadia Valley Operations. When will this stop! I can only hope that you as the approval body are part of a collective group of people in the world that truly wants change for the longevity and health of the very thing that sustains all of our lives, and I mean everyone and everything, and not be influenced by others to continue down this path of environmental destruction with the end result being THE END.

I want to thank you for your time and consideration to read my submission. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this document regarding my fears and concerns for the proposed mine at Kings Plains by Regis Resources.

Regards

Tony Newman

Figure 1 – Overhead view of Cadia Valley Operations, NSW



Figure 2- Asbestos Signage in Vittoria State Forest Kings Plains, NSW



Figure 3 Asbestos signage in Vittoria State Forest Kings Plains, NSW.



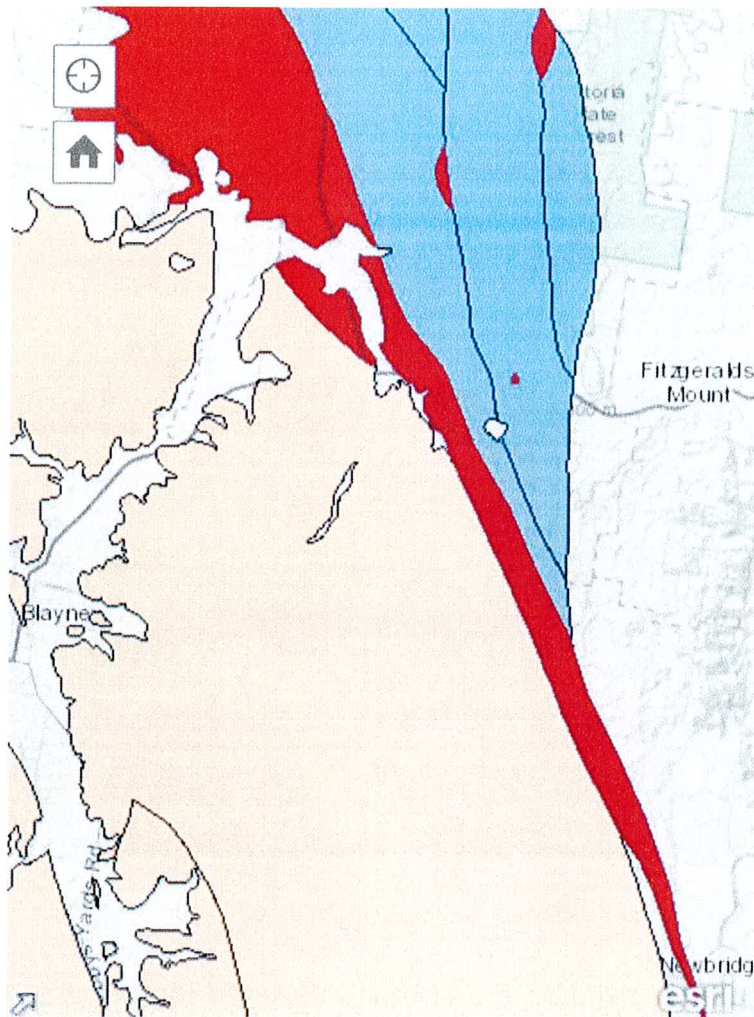


Figure 4 – NSW map showing high, medium, and low potential asbestos areas. The red area represents high levels, the light pink area represents medium levels and the blue represents low levels of asbestos. Clearly shown here the overall site is covered in high, medium and low ranges of potential asbestos. My research suggests that the high potential levels run partially through the main pit.

Figure 5 – Westerly aspect from 262 Walkom road, Kings Plains, NSW.



Figure 6 – Northern Aspect from 262 Walkom road, Kings Plains, NSW.



Figure 7 – Cunningham Skink (*Egernia Cunninghamia*) (AKA – Frank)
It's our favourite local cold climate, spiny tailed skink. He's about as big as they get, they are communal reptiles and often where there is one you will find three or more. They breed well, however young one's battle to reach maturity. They are good climbers, and like rock ledges and cracks to live in. They are omnivores. They can drop their tail if attacked and will bluff by hissing and swelling their bodies to look bigger. If bitten, you just have to sit patiently until it lets go. Named after botanist Cunningham who first discovered this species, in the Blue Mountains.

