

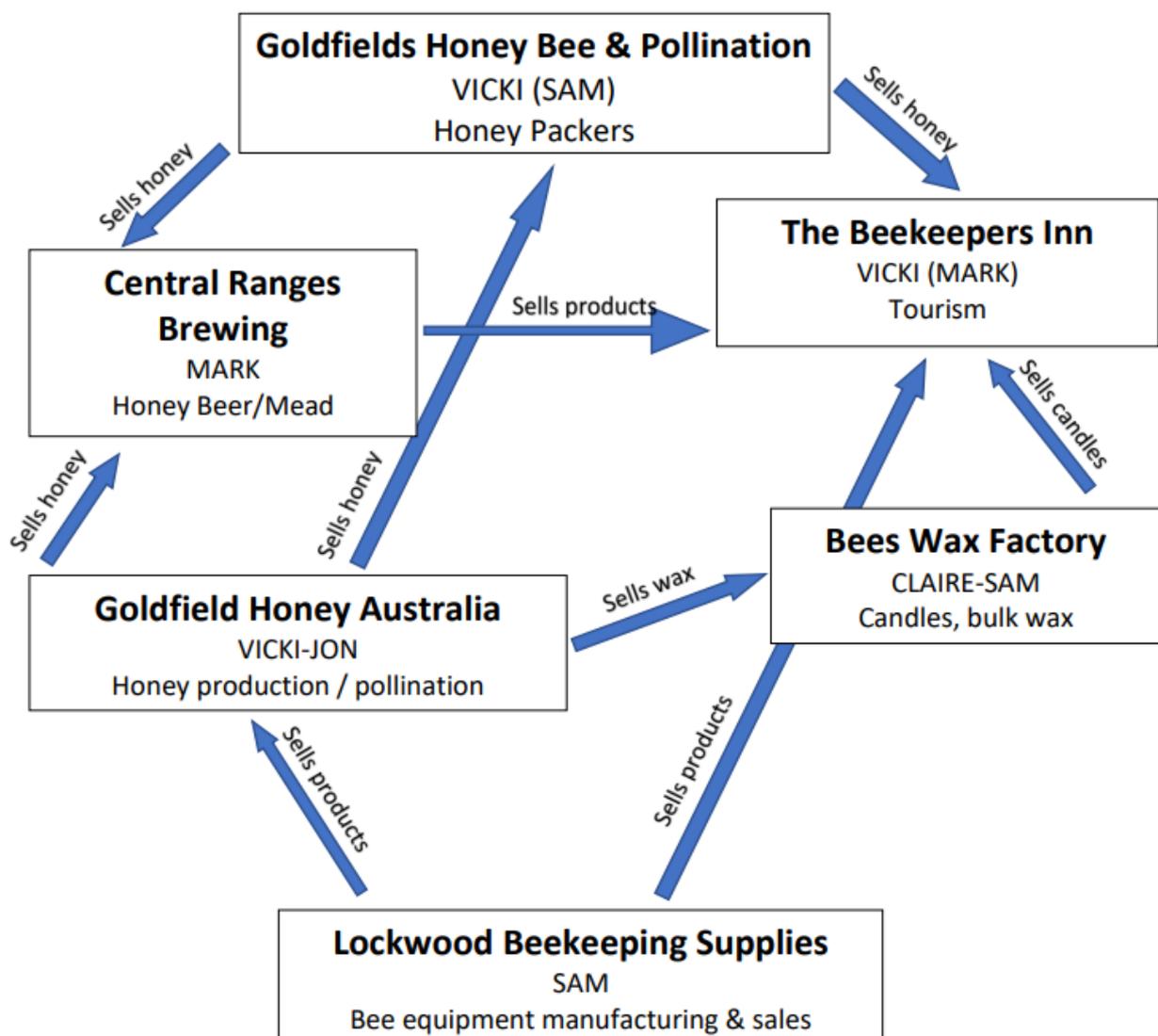
My name **Vicki Lockwood**, 63 years of age, and the matriarch of my family businesses. Under the “Goldfields” umbrella are the following companies.

- Goldfields Honey, Bee and Pollination Services Pty Ltd.
- Goldfield Honey Australia Pty Ltd
- Goldfields Apiaries
- The Beekeepers Inn

I am also consultant to:

- The Lockwood Family Trust
- Lockwood Beekeeping Supplies
- Central Ranges Brewing Company, and
- The Beeswax Factory

LOCKWOOD FAMILY BUSINESS FLOW CHART



**VICKI LOCKWOOD - Sole owner of:
2319 Mitchell Highway VITTORIA NSW 2799**

Business operated from this site:

1	GOLDFIELDS HONEY BEE & POLLINATION SERVICES PTY LTD (Founding Company) Managing Director – VICKI LOCKWOOD Purpose – Honey Packing Manager & Quality Assurance Practitioner: SAM LOCKWOOD
2	GOLDFIELD HONEY AUSTRALIA PTY LTD Managing Director – JON LOCKWOOD Company Secretary – VICKI LOCKWOOD Purpose – Beekeeping <u>Owner of:</u> Kalamunda – 2323 Mitchell Highway, VITTORIA – proposed 5,000 metre honey facility (<i>will not proceed if mine is approved</i>)
3	THE BEEKEEPERS INN Owner – VICKI LOCKWOOD Manager – MARK LOCKWOOD Purpose – Café/Function Facility/Tourism/Education Facility
4	LOCKWOOD BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES Managing Director - SAM LOCKWOOD Purpose – Manufacturing Timber Beeware & Retail Beekeeping goods/equipment
5	THE BEESWAX FACTORY Owners – CLAIRE BENNETT & SAM LOCKWOOD Purpose – Candle Making & Wax Wholesaler
6	CENTRAL RANGES BREWING CO Managing Director – MARK LOCKWOOD Purpose – Brewing of Beer & Honey Mead

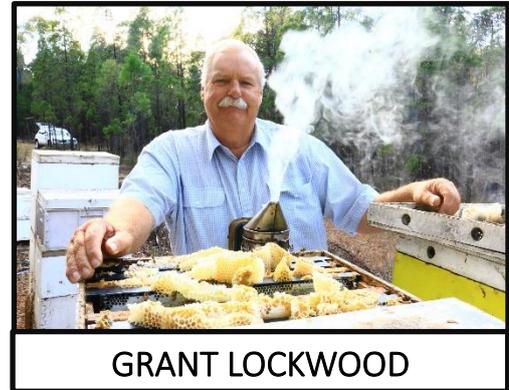
I will refer to these Business as *"Goldfields"* in my presentation.

My four adult children Jon, Mark, Claire and Sam and their partners are all involved in various sections of our businesses.

I give this presentation today to help you understand our industry, the apiary industry. I wish I had a week, but I will do my best in 15 minutes to make you understand why “Goldfields”, the Lockwood family and the beekeeping industry opposes the recommendation for the proposed mine at Kings Plains known as the McPhillamy project which is located just 2 km from my businesses.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Grant Lockwood founder of Goldfields started beekeeping at age 16 with Orange Bee Farms in 1975. Orange Bee Farms one of Australia’s largest beekeeping companies was established in 1950s post war. Grant did his apprenticeship and was a naturally talented/skilled beekeeper. His expert knowledge of bees, flora, climate, geography and farming is irreplaceable. These skills passed on by mentors who were pioneers in beekeeping in Australia. Grant has passed these skills onto his children.



GRANT LOCKWOOD

I myself was raised on a merino sheep farm. My family now has five generations in Australian agriculture. My working history is in banking and accounting.

Grant and I established Goldfields at Lucknow in 1989, and eventually moved to our current site on the Mitchell Hwy at VITTORIA in 1999, selected because it is surrounded by clean environment suitable for beekeeping, honey production and queen breeding. Also, it is located on a major freight route to Sydney. A new honey extracting and honey packing facility was built in 2010.

The Beekeepers Inn, a Cobb and Co stop over built in 1859 is the perfect place for our café, tourist and educational facilities. Sadly, Grant passed away in 2017.

Goldfields is currently operated by our four children Jon, Mark, Claire and Sam along with their partners, and the up-and-coming new generation of eight grandchildren and two on the way.



CURRENT FACTORY



Packing Room Staff / Honey Products

Goldfields Operates 12,000 beehives and is the largest beekeeping business in Australia. Our bee sites in the Vittoria State Forrest are approx. 200 metres from the proposed office facilities.

Goldfields also has a honey packing facility where we pack honey for major supermarkets, our tourist shop, retail outlets and to export companies. Our facility is SQF (food safety) accredited.

The process of this whole proposal is very unjust. It has been approx. 10 years since this Food mine was first proposed and now it is at this point. It is a very unfair system where Regis has been given extension after extension but an individual like me is given just weeks to submit. The pressure is huge on not only myself, my mental health, but my family and my businesses. How can one proposal hold up the lives of so many people for such a long period of time.

During the past five years, myself, my family and Goldfields have endured grief with the death of my husband, hence the restructure of new business model, one of Australia's worst droughts, bushfires that burnt many of our resources, COVID restricting movement of bees over borders, a mice plague which stripped crops and added stress to food safety programs, Varroa mite incursion that is a major ongoing catastrophe to our beekeeping industry, recent floods that caused bee losses, where we can't access our bees or cant travel on the unrepaired roads to resources. Lack of staff across all areas of Goldfields especially hospitality. My time and the time of my family would have been more beneficial dealing with these issues rather than reading through reams of mining papers that we do not understand.



SQF (Food Safety) Accreditation



My grandchildren – the next generation of beekeepers

EXPANSION

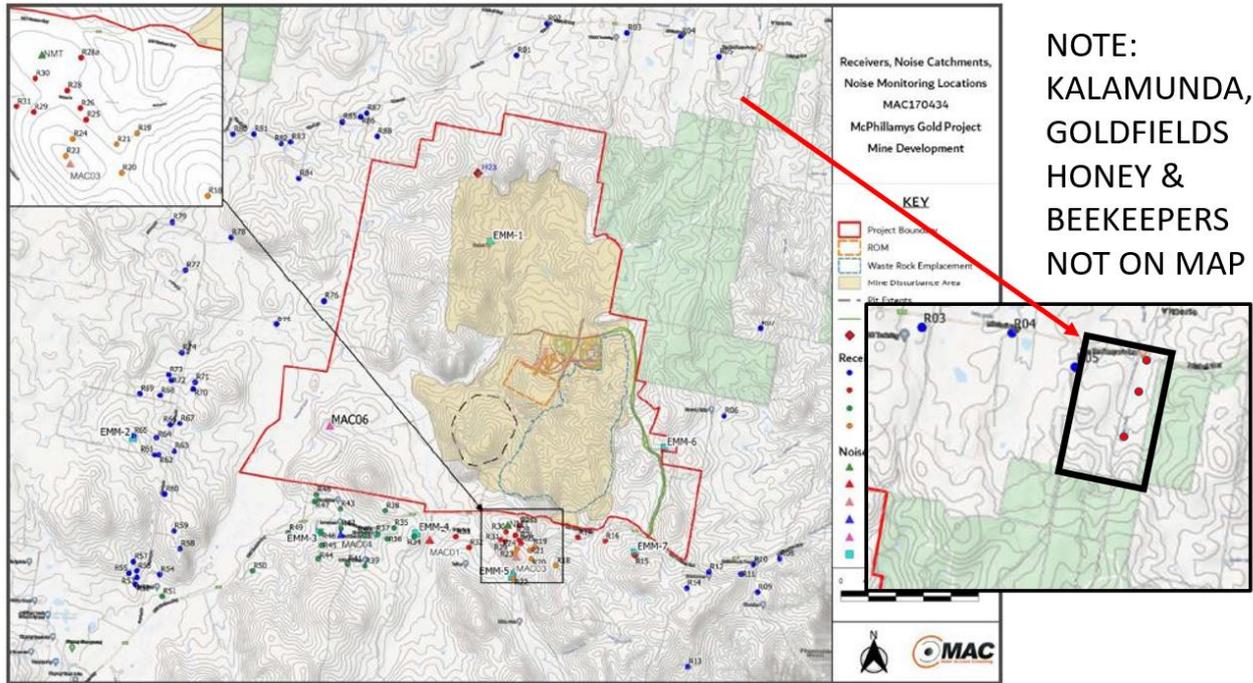
Goldfields recently purchased a 70-acre property “Kalamunda” adjoining our factory where the house is located just 2 km from the tailings dam. This decision to purchase this was not taken lightly but was always part of our ongoing business expansion what with the proposed mine looming over our heads, but what do you do put our lives on hold? My son Jon, his wife Sarah and their three small boys have recently renovated and moved into the farmhouse. My concern is that the boys all have various degrees of autism.

Can Regis guarantee that the blasting will not be heard from the house as one of the boys is extremely noise sensitive.

Can Regis guarantee that the dust will not affect my other grandson who has recently been diagnosed

with asthma.

Of course, these boys, my grandchildren are already doing their beekeeping apprenticeship.



NOTE:
KALAMUNDA,
GOLDFIELDS
HONEY &
BEEKEEPERS
NOT ON MAP

Figure 6 | Mine site - noise catchments, receivers and monitoring locations (Source: First Amendment Report, Appendix J (September 2020))

I have noted that the department has not even noted the house on any of their receptors, even though it is in very close proximity to the proposed mine. The factory or the Beekeepers Inn is not noted either. I'm extremely confused with maps, my land is almost a near neighbor with only the Vittoria state forest between us and within 2km of Regis boundary, and I am not included on the maps.

FUTURE EXPANSION

As part of our expansion, Goldfields has its own proposed development, which is a new factory, the plan currently awaiting approval with Bathurst Regional Council. This factory will house storage, a state-of-the-art honey extracting facility, cool rooms for control of pest and diseases, workshops and office facilities. This developments worth is in excess of 5 million dollars. This will allow over the next ten years a doubling of our capacity in all areas including employment.

EMPLOYMENT

Goldfields employees approx. 40 full time staff, and each of them extremely concerned as to the security of their jobs, this whole procedure has created uncertainty. These staff come from surrounding areas of Orange, Bathurst and Blayney. Goldfields is also an approved employer with the Department of Immigration and sources staff on 482 visa who are professional beekeeper. Goldfields is also an approved PALM (Pacific Labour Employer), we currently host and employ three people from PNG and one from Fiji. Those from the Pacific Island group are taught beekeeping skills to take them home to their communities. The ongoing employment is in jeopardy if the proposed mine is to proceed.



Beekeepers from PNG, Fiji, Philippines

THE BEEKEEPERS INN

The Beekeepers Inn was built in 1859 and to this day is a very solid historic building which houses our honey shop, farm shop, licensed café/function, honey tasting and live bee display and our outlet for 1859 beer which is brewed on-site. The live

beehive and honey tasting attracts many visitors. I have extensively renovated and extended to over the years to create an iconic place for locals and visitors to our area.

We are located on the Mitchell Hwy, the gateway to the food hub of NSW. Visitors to the Inn come from all over the world, interstate, and local. Our immediate area holds events such as FOOD and Wine week in Orange, Car Racing at Mount Panorama, Australian National Field Days just to name a few.



We have a function facility that hosts birthdays, special events and approx 25 weddings per year, the ceremony often held on site.

We host educational tours, bus groups, school groups, disability groups, many clubs who want to learn about our industry.

Commissioners, I need guarantees that these events will not be affected by blasting, noise or dust. These are very special events.

THE BREWERY

Central Ranges Brewing Company (1859 Brewery)



Our onsite brewery uses our pristine bore water which is proven to be highly suitable for brewing. Commissioners, I need guarantees that our bore water will not be affected. My son Mark will be speaking today about the brewery.

THE BEESWAX FACTORY

Chemical free beeswax is produced for candle making. The wax is also filtered, placed into molds and sent to an export company that specializes in beeswax the cosmetic and pharmaceutical industry. Exported wax for the cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries must be free of any residues.



Any wax that will be produced adjacent to the mine site will have to be stringently tested wax melting machines cleaned to avoid cross contamination.

Can Regis guarantee that wax produced from the mine area will be free of residues and Regis will cover the cost of cleaning and testing.



Goldfields beehives in Vittoria State Forest

OUR COMMUNITY

You can't have a business without a community. We live in the local government area of Orange, My businesses housed in Bathurst, our local shops and post office in Blayney, and our bees kept in Cabonne. Our staff and my family live in these 4 LGA'S.

I know if this mine is approved things like housing, childcare, medical, roads, education will be strained on the already strained services. My own secretary will not be returning to Goldfields after maternity leave as she cannot access adequate childcare. Communities will be

segregated, people's homes (not Houses) their lifetime hopes, dreams and roots gone. I am particularly concerned about the King Plains community that is already seeing its demise. This cannot happen.

HELP

As I read through reams and reams of submissions, responses, scientific reports over the many years I find that Regis and the Dept of Planning and Environment baffle me with grey reading. Nothing seems black or white, yes or no. For example, terms such as ...

"Where practical"

"Sufficiently minimized"

"The department recognizes"

"The department considers"

"Minimizing Activities"

"Could be managed"

"Reasonable and favorable measures"

"Reduce the impacts as far as practicable"

"Noted, noted, noted"

Just to name a few.

I am not a scientist or a technical specialist either are my staff, and nor do I have the expertise or funds to employ people to respond or sort through the reams of paper, emails, messages, reports that have been issued over the last nine years.

However, I did engage Macquarie University under the instructions of the then Professor Mark Taylor to do base line studies so we have record as to the condition of our environment in case any mining commences. I did ask Regis to contribute financially to these studies but got a flat rejection.

Also, over the years I have had the odd meeting with Regis. In a recent email I wrote to the DPE and said I had not heard from Regis in years, the next week Regis contacted me for a meeting.

No one even acknowledges the receipt of your correspondence, extreme bad manners. On one occasion a man by the name of Chris Roach from Regis rang me and said he was ringing as he touched base with the neighbors. I discussed some concerns with him, he said I'll get back to you. I placed some trust as he seemed like a nice man. He never got back to me, and I found out that he left company shortly after I was speaking with him. I lost all confidence with Regis.

The whole process is so confusing, I'm sure it is designed for people like me just to give up, but here I am. And the acronyms, I can't even comprehend a report. Regis or the DPE have never ever bothered to learn about how our businesses is structured.

Goldfields operates a diverse enterprise. Without one branch the other falls over. We overlap each other propping each other up in struggling times that's what families do.

If this mine were to go ahead the destruction is irreversible not only to my businesses but the endangered flora and homes for endangered animals destroyed. Our Belubula river never to be what it was, our natural springs to be blocked up with cement. The river is already stressed what with the already existing CADIA mine.

A dirty tailing with a huge wall remains, and the hole!!!! I still don't understand if you dig a hole/pit that big and make huge amounts of money that Regis says it will, why can't they fill the hole back in and return the lay of the land to how it was, not just fence it off and walk away and leave everything to the environment for the next 400 years.

Commissioners, I hope that you consider each point that I and others have made, I will be near 80 at the end of the project so it is not me I am concerned about, it my family, it's our environment which must be spared for future generations. My grandchildren, your grandchildren.

If this project is approved a condition must be placed on it that mine and processing plant must be decommissioned, and a date set in concrete. No extensions.

The environment must be brought back to normal. Climate change is impacting too fast on our earth.

I know we need mines; I know we need progress; I know we need jobs. I know the government needs to collect royalties, but the world, Australia, our communities, our families, ourselves need to eat. Without healthy bees, commercial bee pollination does not happen. Our food security is in major jeopardy. Recently I heard our government is considering a minister for food security.

Our businesses are in jeopardy, how can our business that has a long history spanning over seven decades and has a future be put in this situation for the sake of a business that just comes and leaves. Leaving in its path destruction and a scarred environment.

One in every three mouthfuls of food you eat is due to a bee. Our beekeeping resources are valuable, climate change is impacting severely on them. We need to prevent manmade, unnecessary destruction for the sake of mankind.

Thank you.

Vicki Lockwood

The Goldfields Honey Group

