



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

RE: McPhillamys Gold Project (SSD-9505)
State-significant development of an open cut mine and water supply pipeline

LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL MEETING

COMMISSION PANEL: PROFESSOR CHRIS FELL (CHAIR)
 MS CLARE SYKES
 DR PETER WILLIAMS

OFFICE OF THE IPC: JANE ANDERSON
 OLIVER COPE

LITHGOW CITY LEANNE KEARNEY
COUNCIL: LAUREN STEVENS
 PAUL CREELMAN

LOCATION: VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

DATE: 3.00PM, MONDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2022

TRANSCRIBED AND RECORDED BY APT TRANSCRIPTIONS

PROFESSOR CHRIS FELL: Thanks very much for joining us. Before we begin, I'd like to acknowledge that I'm speaking to you from Gadigal land and I acknowledge the traditional owners of all of the country from which we virtually meet today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. Welcome to the meeting today to discuss the McPhillamys Gold Project, SSD-9505, currently before the Commission for determination. The applicant LFB Resources, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Regis Resources Limited, proposes to develop the McPhillamys Gold Project, an open cut gold mine to extract up to 60.8 million tonnes of ore and produce up to two million ounces of gold over 11 years and build an associated underground water supply pipeline in Central West New South Wales.

My name is Professor Chris Fell, I'm Chair of the Commission panel. I'm joined by my fellow Commissioners Dr Peter Williams and Ms Clare Sykes. We're also joined by Ms Jane Anderson and Mr Oliver Cope from the Office of the Independent Planning Commission. In the interests of openness and transparency and to ensure the full capture of information today's meeting is being recorded and a complete transcript will be produced and made available on the Commission's website. This meeting is one part of the Commission's consideration of this matter and will form one of the several sources of information upon which the Commission will base its determination.

It's important for the Commissioners to ask questions of attendees and to clarify issues wherever it's considered appropriate. If you're asked a question and not in a position to answer, please feel free to take the question on notice and provide any additional information in writing which we will then put up on our website. I request that all members here today introduce themselves before speaking for the first time and for all members to ensure that they do not speak over the top of each other to ensure accuracy of the transcript. We can now begin. Thank you very much and welcome. Now, I'm suggesting to give a few minutes to indicate where Lithgow Council is coming from on this particular Project and then the Commissioners would like to look in somewhat more detail a number of the issues which we have indicated in part on the agenda. So perhaps over to you, thank you. Who's opening the batting? Sorry, you're still - thank you.

MR CREELMAN: Can you hear us at all?

PROF. FELL: We can now, thank you.

MR PAUL CREELMAN: Thank you. So I'm Paul Creelman, Transport Manager for Lithgow Council. Yeah, so and my comment area will be around the roads and the pipeline running through.

MS LAUREN STEVENS: I'm Lauren Stevens, I'm a Development Assessment Planner for any proposed impacts it may have within the Lithgow and surrounding township and we've got Leanne with us too. She's - - -

10 MS LEANNE KEARNEY: Hi everyone, my name is Leanne Kearney and I'm the Assets and Infrastructure Planning Manager at Council so any comments I make today will be around any infrastructure services or road-related traffic matters, any of the like.

PROF. FELL: Thank you. We're all ears.

MS STEVENS: Sorry about the background noise, we couldn't get a spare room.

PROF. FELL: So Lithgow Council's in full action, I know, good.

20 MS STEVENS: So did you want us to go through the agenda or the potential impacts or concerns we have?

PROF. FELL: I think initially if you told us concerns you might have about this Project that we should be aware of and then we can go into the agenda items - - -

MS STEVENS: Yeah.

PROF. FELL: - - - in a bit more detail. Because you've only got a short - so over to you.

30

MR CREELMAN: All right. So my - I suppose my main concern is with the pipeline running through many of our assets, whether it be from Portland Cemetery, along the roads that we manage, the location of the roads, the location of the service within the roads or within that road reserve. The - when the works are taking place to ensure that

they're done in a safe manner and that we receive the information when they're occurring so we can do planning in that respect so we're not working in the same areas or trying to and also the - the things like receiving the information for things like their management plans, their traffic management plan and that type of thing so that we're just aware of how that will impact the communities as they move along in the process of getting their pipeline probably out through our - through to the other side of our LGA.

PROF. FELL: Okay. Thank you. Certainly take that into account.

10

MR CREELMAN: I think for the Portland Cemetery side of things that, yeah, the condition that's there, the vibration monitoring to be undertaken due to the potential for graves to slip and collapse and to make sure that that type of thing is guarded against while the works are going on in the vicinity of the cemetery. The emergency management. We're looking at also too the other side of that in knowing where they're working and their work methods. With the LEMO within our own Council he's advised us to how he can best advise responses to emergency incidents that may occur within the LGA, whether they be minor or major and to communicate that amongst the emergency services community in responsiveness.

20

Survey plans also too would be good for Council to receive worker's executive plans of all the works that are done so that we're not going through and damaging any of the infrastructure that is put in place through this Project. Air quality. So we're - yeah, as in the minutes there we're happy with that and as I've mentioned, traffic management plans, so we're looking for traffic management plan from basically while they're working anywhere within our read reserve but also too any other properties that they may be passing through that Council is in control of on the - so that we can coordinate any works that may be going on in and around that area whilst the works are going through.

30

Yeah. And to discuss with the works providers essentially how the areas are going to be restored once they've actually gone through and the pipeline has been installed. Looking for some sort of - maybe a restoration agreement on how that will happen and timeframes and materials used and to ensure that the ground is then compacted so we're not left with essentially trenches through areas that people may have issues with as time goes on.

PROF. FELL: Are you generally happy with their proposed method of construction and the fact that it will under-bore any critical assets, et cetera?

MR CREELMAN: I suppose that's the ideal way of doing it to have less disruption around those critical points. So the under-boring would be ideal. Yeah, so I suppose we're talking about - even in that aspect finding out the depths that they do under-bore at, again so that we're not interfering with their infrastructure while - well, once it's completed if we have to do any excavations for drainage or anything of the like ourselves. So I suppose, yeah, so if there is under-boring, that's fine, but, yeah, they can give us the details of that we'd be - that would be important for us as we move into the future and as I said, pipeline development is decommissioning so, yeah, so obviously any notification as far as possible prior to that happening so that we can then potentially make any plans around that, if it is essentially being able to be used by us or not and it also then will make it a lot easier for us to work around that as we make our plans - our potential plans for any of those sorts of assets that are there. Did you want to say anything?

PROF. FELL: Just a question. If it were to be used for transport, water, for agriculture purposes after the mining has finished how would the - what would the reaction of Council be?

MR CREELMAN: I suppose if it's for agricultural purposes afterwards then I don't see that we would have any issues if the infrastructure was to stay as is and not need to be altered or changed within the ground then it would essentially be, apart from probably a few minor parts of the ground, be unsighted by us anyway, as long as we continue to have the records of any updates or changes to it so that we can make sure that we stay away from that area should we have works.

PROF. FELL: Thank you.

MS STEVENS: So, I guess, another concern from the Councillors was why - well, from the community that we have why is our water being transferred to Blayney and if it could ever be - if Lithgow ever run out of water which we know we've got plans for with the water dams and that, could it ever be converted back to Lithgow from the main plant. I think that's pretty much all we have. We didn't really have many concerns, it was just more to make sure the conditions were included on the consent.

MS CLARE SYKES: Chris, I had a question - Lauren, I had a question just around that in terms of the potential opportunities around water supply. Have you been engaging with, or has there been progress made in terms of the engagement with Centennial Coal, you know, outlining the water source and the Project and you've

referred to an information session had been requested and has that progressed in any other discussion with Centennial?

MS STEVENS: Not that I'm aware of, no.

PROF. FELL: Sorry.

DR PETER WILLIAMS: Sorry, Chris, you go first, that's all right.

10 PROF. FELL: Peter, please.

DR WILLIAMS: Thanks. Paul, sorry, you mentioned before about how coordination of Council works and the location of pipeline and notification and so on. I presume a certain amount of the pipeline will be going over Council land. Have any approvals been given or consideration of any approvals at this stage that will be required forthcoming from Council before the pipeline construction?

20 MR CREELMAN: I suppose if we got - and I haven't seen much of the documentation so it may already be here but I haven't seen the actual path of the pipeline through the LGA where it's proposed and that maybe once we identify that we can then make any sort of determination on whether we need to make approvals through certain areas or ask for a diversion one way or the other. So until we actually see the pipeline - as it is from what I've heard a lot of it's going to go through road reserves and that sort of thing which should be - on the whole should be okay. There is - I'm thinking that path that they will go through without seeing it there would be some difficult spots for them; however, along some of the edges of roads there are some quite sharp cuttings that they have to go through.

30 So whether - it will be whether they have to go into our physical road or not while they're doing the works or whether they can actually go in, in the road shoulder and stay off the road. While we've got the plan of actually where it goes it would be good to see where it actually goes compared to where the actual physical road's being built so we know if any - what restorations would be needed.

DR WILLIAMS: Right. Thank you. Thank you. One of the agenda items we had here was to do with water supply and status of consultation with Centennial Coal. I

don't know how much - how involved Council's been directly involved with negotiations with Centennial Coal but I'd ask the question anyway. Do you have any ideas about the reliability of this source? In other words - and its longevity? In other words, how reliable it is and how long that source might be available for this particular proposal but perhaps afterwards as well.

10 PROF. FELL: Well, I might attempt a comment on that. Basically even when Centennial closes as a mine there will still be a fairly significant inflow into the mine workings. Now, they're talking of 15 megalitres a day being transferred as a maximum. I haven't looked at the figures for the closure of Centennial and what the residual flow-in will be but just from looking at other mines it's probably likely that sort of level of water will certainly be available. It's not all that good water, it's a TDS of about three and half thousand which makes it not immediately available as towns water, it would have to be further treated but I suspect, and we'll certainly ask the applicant this question, would it be long term available and my immediate feeling is probably yes. I don't know if that answers the query.

20 MS STEVENS: Yeah. I have a feeling that Centennial, Springvale and Angus Place have up until 2040, don't quote me on that though, from memory, yeah. I know Clarence Coal have just got an extension.

PROF. FELL: So that's really the water supply and the effects of construction of the pipeline. Are you at all worried about the biodiversity effects of the construction of the pipeline. I really defer to Peter on this one but do you see any difficulties there as far as the road paths that you're suggesting?

30 MR CREELMAN: I can only speak obviously for our local roads within the LGA but I don't see anything in general, it may be some specific site issues they may find where they may have to - where, for argument's sake, vague recollection there's a couple of places where it goes through some cuttings and there's not much room on the side of the road but we'd like to, as much as possible, stay away from having the pipeline go under the - sorry, having to excavate through the existing roads for the pipeline. If it can be worked on in the shoulder reserve then that's great, that's what we'd be looking for; however, if it does have to go through the road and we'd need - and that's where a restoration agreement would have to be sought for - in looking at that.

PROF. FELL: Thank you. Can you tell us a bit more about the traffic side? I mean, the company has said that it will want workers to live not more than 45 minutes away

from the site and I think that would mean Lithgow is not a potential domicile for workers at the site but you mentioned traffic.

MR CREELMAN: Yes. I mean, I suppose the length of the pipeline does go for a fair way so if they're not that faraway, so they're going to have to be living fairly central to the pipeline itself. It would be - Lithgow would be the ideal spot to draw its workforce from and - - -

PROF. FELL: Construct - - -

10

MR CREELMAN: Yeah. So that would be, yeah, an ideal area for everything from the actual physical installation of the pipeline to the traffic control and all those things involved. So - and we do have many contractors within the area that would be suitable for that sort of role within - within the installation of pipeline and the traffic management and probably all that's involved within that.

PROF. FELL: Thank you very much. I should offer my fellow Commissioners the opportunity to ask any questions specifically.

20 MS SYKES: I didn't have any further questions, thanks, Chris, apart from the point around water.

PROF. FELL: Peter?

DR WILLIAMS: Sorry. Paul, you did say there might be some potential economic benefits from, particularly, construction of the pipeline?

30 MR CREELMAN: Absolutely. I see that we have very much an area that has a lot of civil contractors and civil workers within the area. So within that construction I would see that it would be of mutual benefit for both where obviously the community would benefit but also the company doing the work would also benefit in that workers would be within that 45-minute window of location to the pipeline itself.

PROF. FELL: Okay.

DR WILLIAMS: Thank you, Paul.

PROF. FELL: During our visit last week we took the opportunity to drive through Lithgow and much appreciated its historic buildings and many other features. Very interesting city.

MR CREELMAN: It has and it has a very deep history too.

10 PROF. FELL: So are there any other points you'd like us to take away with us as we go further into this submissions job?

MR CREELMAN: I don't - - -

MS STEVENS: No, I think we've put it all in our written submission back in 2020 just to make sure they consult with us in regards to road closures, any management plans we receive, anything like that, yeah, but I think we've put it all in our submission.

20 PROF. FELL: Well, we'll certainly check that that side of it is covered, if it should go ahead. So look, I'd like to thank you and probably bring this meeting to a close but again thanks for making the time to speak with us and we'll certainly take on board what you've told us. So back to your quite-busy office.

MR CREELMAN: Thank you very much.

MS STEVENS: Thank you very much.

PROF. FELL: Bye.

30

MEETING CONCLUDED

[3.31pm]