



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

RE: McPHILLAMYS GOLD PROJECT (SSD-9505)

STAKEHOLDER MEETING

COMMISSION PANEL: DR PETER WILLIAMS (PANEL CHAIR)
MS CLARE SYKES
PROFESSOR NEAL MENZIES

COUNSEL ASSISTING: MR JAMES EMMETT SC

OFFICE OF THE IPC: JANE ANDERSON
OLIVER COPE
STUART MORGAN

COMMUNITY MEMBER
AND ABORIGINAL ELDER: NYREE REYNOLDS

OBSERVERS: TONY NEWMAN
BILL ALLEN
LISA PATON

LOCATION: IN PERSON MEETING,
BLAYNEY SHIRE COMMUNITY CENTRE

DATE: 5.30PM, TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2023

RECORDED BY THE OFFICE OF THE IPC, TRANSCRIBED BY REV

DR WILLIAMS: Good afternoon and welcome. Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Wiradjuri people. I'd also like to pay my respects to their elders, past and present. The applicant, LFB Resources NL, 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 tons of ore and produce up to 2 million ounces of gold, over 11 years. And build an associated underground water supply pipeline in Central West New South Wales.

10 My name is Peter Williams. I am the Chair of this Commission Panel. I'm joined by my fellow Commissioners Ms Clare Sykes and Professor Neil Menzies. We are also joined by Jane Anderson and Oliver Cope from the Office of the Independent Planning Commission. This meeting is an opportunity for us to hear from Ms Nyree Reynolds. The Commission has also extended an invitation to a representative of the Belubula Headwaters Protection Group, Mr Tony Newman, to accompany Ms. Reynolds and to observe this meeting. I note that we heard Mr Newman's presentation to the Commission on Day 1 of the public hearing. I also welcome the others in attendance to support. Thank you very much. In the interest of openness and transparency, and to ensure the full capture of information, today's meeting is being recorded and the
20 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 several sources of information upon which the Commission will base its determination. It is important for the Commissioners to ask questions of attendees and to clarify issues whenever it is considered appropriate. If you are asked a question and not in a position to answer it, please feel free to take the question on notice and, and provide any additional information in writing which we will put up on our website.

30 So, I request that all members 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 the accuracy of the transcript.

So, we'll now begin. So, Nyree, would you like to tell us your story and your presentation?

40 MS REYNOLDS: I'm Nyree Reynolds. I have, uh, vocal dysphonia which is paralysis of my vocal chords. And I also have mesothelioma, which is cancer caused by asbestos. So, this mine freaks me out, actually. Um, I, I think the best way is through my paintings.

DR WILLIAMS: Sure.

MS REYNOLDS: (showing painting)

This, um, Council asked me to do, uh, a painting for the billboard that's on the Mid-Western Highway. I didn't know where to paint, but I was drawn to this because this is as you come up Fitzgeralds Mount, and you come around, it's the first view of Wiradjuri country in Blayney Shire. So, it's really important to me. And these are the traveling lines, and people have wandered from Gaanha Bula, which is Mount Canobolas, to Wahluu (Mount Panorama), and then to - - - I always forget the name, but Macquarie.

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MR ALLEN: Guhanawahlni- - - Yeah, my name's Dinawan Dyrribang, I'm Uncle Bill Allen, Wiradjuri Elder. Uh, the third brother you're talking about is Mount Macquarie, called Guhanawahlni.

MS REYNOLDS: So this was a very important meeting place. And it was also significant in the frontier wars. It's also the site of the mine, which I didn't know when I painted it. So if the mine goes there, this will be the only representation left of what it was like. And this is also part of the sacred triangle with Gaanha Bula, Wahluu, Mount Panorama, and - - -

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MR ALLEN: Yeah, Macquarie (Guhanawahlni).

MS REYNOLDS: Thank you. I know. So it's a very, very significant area. And that's why I'm so pleased it's the billboard, but I hope this stays the same as the billboard.

DR WILLIAMS: So Nyree, could I... Sorry, Peter Williams, can I just... While you've got that up. So it's, it's where the vegetation there, is that the mine site there?

MS REYNOLDS: It's down here. In there.

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DR WILLIAMS: Behind, behind... In there, behind it? Okay.

MS REYNOLDS: Mm-hmm.

DR WILLIAMS: Thank you.

MS REYNOLDS: (showing painting)

Yep, yep. And then when I found out about the mine, this company, this is our river. This is our Bilabula, which is the proper way. Yeah. Bila means river, bula is two. So it's not the Belubula, it's the Bilabula. And it was very significant, and when I heard about the mine, I imagined all my ancestors leaving because that was the second

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billboard I'd done. When we put the first billboard up, I felt the ancestors, it was just beautiful. Now, I can see that they're leaving, the spirits are leaving. And that's the dust from the mine. And I've written, that's the story of that painting, and that's the story of this one. Was there anything that you'd like to expand on?

MR ALLEN: The main thing, if I could say something, that's all right?

DR WILLIAMS: Sure.

10 MR ALLEN: Um, the painting here shows we, we're saying goes to, towards going to Bula, well, to the right, that's where it's going back towards Wahluu, So, this is the, the training, oh, not the trail, the, the song line that they follow.

DR WILLIAMS: Right.

MR ALLEN: That I sort of talked about with - - -

MS SYKES: Yeah.

20 MR ALLEN: - - - with other people and that sort of thing. So, she's put it into painting, which I didn't even know.

DR WILLIAMS: Right.

MR ALLEN: So, 'cause we, we done the site, like I said, knowledge is passed down through my family and that sort of thing, about all this sort of stuff. And so yeah, so this... And, you know, for us, the ancestral spirits are speaking, and they're, they're, they're not happy with what's going on.

30 MS SYKES: Um, uh, Clare Sykes here. Um, is that what you referred to as the sacred triangle, the convergence of - - -

MR ALLEN: Yeah.

MS SYKES: Yep, yeah.

MR ALLEN: Yeah, those three mountains, they're part of the Three Brothers story.

MS SYKES: Yeah.

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MR ALLEN: And the boys learned the stories of each one. So they were given the choice then of do you want to be like Gaanha Bula you want to be like Wahluu? Because Gaanha Bula was a bad follower, bad brother, and Wahluu was a good brother. So it's about making your choice.

MS SYKES: Yeah. Ok.

MS REYNOLDS: And further back here, are the, um, there's an ochre site which for over 20 years we'd been, we collect ochre only when we, we need it. And we
10 scheduled so many with kids, and so the ochre belongs to all Wiradjuri people. And we only take what we need, so that's a special place.

MR ALLEN: And most people do not know about that ochre site.

MS REYNOLDS: No.

MR ALLEN: Um, but I've been going there longer than Nyree's been going there, and that's only 'cause I was - - -

20 MS REYNOLDS: Yeah.

MR ALLEN: - - - shown a long, long time ago.

MS REYNOLDS: Yeah.

MR ALLEN: Yeah, like I said, we only tell very few people about what that place is, and that sort of other thing. So for the land council to say they're gonna block it off from anyone going there, it's against our cultural beliefs.

30 MS REYNOLDS: Yeah.

MR ALLEN: So this is where we're saying land councils do not represent traditional owners or Aboriginal people in these cultural matters.

MS REYNOLDS: (showing painting)

Mm-hmm. Um, and this, uh, she was the New South Wales Parliamentary art prize finalist, five times. And she was 2016.

DR WILLIAMS: Oh.
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MS REYNOLDS: And I call it "Reclaiming Her". She's now striding through the hills in Blayne. And, I'd liken her to the people in Walkom Road. They're comfortable with where they were, striding through, it was their place. Why should we take them? And this girl is simply saying, "But why? Just why?"

10 So... Um, so I've made some notes, but, I haven't got the head to take in all the evidence, I can only speak from my heart. And my heart says, what right does anyone have to come into our country and take people's homes? Because they won't be able to stay. And it's very hurtful to think that they would do that. And to block our river, with blocking our springs. How anyone can think of doing that with our river. So, uh - - -

DR WILLIAMS: Nyree, you've got, you've got some notes there. Uh, if you want to, you can just submit them to us, or - - -

MS REYNOLDS: I could.

DR WILLIAMS: - - - rather try and read them now?

20 MS REYNOLDS: Yes, yes.

DR WILLIAMS: 'Cause I, I think it's better I think for you, to explain your - - - what you feel, what you've been doing through, through your art.

MS REYNOLDS: Yes, yes.

DR WILLIAMS: And, and explain the significance for us.

MS REYNOLDS: Yes.

30 DR WILLIAMS: So rather put you under pressure to feel you've got to read notes.

MS REYNOLDS: Yes.

DR WILLIAMS: Um, if... We can either take that now, or you can submit it to us.

MS REYNOLDS: I can submit.

40 DR WILLIAMS: And, and, and if you do, we'll put it up on our website, so just like the transcript today.

MS REYNOLDS: Yes.

DR WILLIAMS: But, but rather than put you through any undue sort of stress - - -

MS REYNOLDS: Yes.

DR WILLIAMS: - - - rather leave that now. We, we can take it. And, and we can read it our ourselves.

MS REYNOLDS: Yeah, that's better.

10 DR WILLIAMS: If, if you want to fix it up, and tidy it up. Um - - -

MS REYNOLDS: I can see that - - -

DR WILLIAMS: Yeah, I can see. It looks like my lecture notes but it's certainly a lot, a lot neater. Um, if, if you want to, um, put that in, in, you know, type it all up - - -

MS REYNOLDS: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

20 DR WILLIAMS: - - - and then submit it to us, we, we can, we can have a closer look at that.

MS REYNOLDS: Yeah, yeah.

DR WILLIAMS: Rather than put any undue pressure on you now.

MS REYNOLDS: Yeah.

30 DR WILLIAMS: To feel you've got to read, read something which we can read anyway.

MS REYNOLDS: (showing book)

Yes. And this is a book I wrote, this is my favourite copy, that tells the story of Wiradjuri people, from then before to now. So I'd like to give you that.

DR WILLIAMS: Oh, thank you.

MS REYNOLDS: (showing book)

And this book, would you like to see that?

40 MR NEWMAN: Ah yeah, definitely. Well, Lisa's probably got a little bit more detail. Um, Tony Newman, by the way. If - - -

MS PATON: I'm happy to speak, if, like us, I support Nyree, but if it's not appropriate, all good.

DR WILLIAMS: Did you want to speak, someone to speak to the book?

MS PATON: Yeah.

DR WILLIAMS: Would you like to? That'd be fine.

10 MS PATON: Okay. So this book, um, is Gudyarra, and um, it was researched and written by Dr Stephen Gapps, who's a renowned historian. Aunty Nyree helped him with the, the maps in here. Uncle Bill and the elders in Bathurst helped him with the cultural knowledge for this. Um, he, he also researched places like the Colonial Secretaries Diaries. This book talks about the Bathurst Wars and events that happened at Kings Plains during 1822, 1823 and up to 1824. Um, and uh, it's, it's worth a read. Um, and you know, it's got Kings Plains in the index and it will, you know, give you an idea.

20 Uh, I suppose one of the things Aunty Nyree might like me to say is that given that when you write a book, you've got a, a date that you got to get it published. And there's a lot more out there that could've gone in this book. And he ran out of time, like we all do in these instances. But this is a really good read, if, if you want to get your head around things. And it's been, and it's been proved, approved by the elders. So yeah.

DR WILLIAMS: That's good. Thank you. Thanks.

MS REYNOLDS: Let's put this...

30 MS PATON: I was gonna try and get you a copy, but...

MR ALLEN: Photograph.

MR NEWMAN: That's a copy you'd keep actually.

DR WILLIAMS: Oh no, no, no. We won't do that.

MR NEWMAN: What? All right - - -

40 DR WILLIAMS: No. But, but, but we will take a record of it. I mean...

MR NEWMAN: It's fine to keep it, but as the objective of - - -

MS PATON: Yeah.

MR NEWMAN: Yeah. So because that's so significant to the site, to have an understanding the site, and connection to Kings Plains, to the Bathurst Wars, 'cause it's all interconnected, and that gives you some context of it. That was, that was the purpose of it. 'Cause these paintings are about this area, and that gives you some additional evidence to understand patterns of the site.

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DR WILLIAMS: So - - -

MS REYNOLDS: My, my maps show various sites that are hard to find.

DR WILLIAMS: - - - Sorry, where? Ah. Thank you. Ah. Great. So it's originally been published - - -

MS REYNOLDS: Yeah.

20 MR NEWMAN: Yeah.

DR WILLIAMS: - - - 2021, so it's recent.

MS REYNOLDS: Yep.

DR WILLIAMS: I can probably get it at the UNSW bookshop - - -

MR NEWMAN: Uh, yep. And on the back I think you've got, university, and you can just get that through that.

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DR WILLIAMS: Yeah. Look, I'm, I'm not going to take it, because it's, it's your book. Yeah, yeah.

MR NEWMAN: Okay.

DR WILLIAMS: But did you get a photo?

MS ANDERSON: And can we just note the map... Sorry, Jane Anderson, for the transcript. Can you just note the map that you looked at, and the page number?

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DR WILLIAMS: Yeah. Yeah. Thank you.

MS ANDERSON: I'll take a photo.

MS PATON: Oh, get the right map. 'Cause there's several in here. Uh... That's not the one.

MS ANDERSON: I can capture it afterwards. It's fine.

MS PATON: Yeah, I'll have a look for it.

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MS REYNOLDS: There's probably heaps more I could say, but - - -

DR WILLIAMS: Yeah.

MS REYNOLDS: - - - it's everyone's book. So it - - -

MR NEWMAN: Is there any more you'd like to say, Aunty Nyree?

MS REYNOLDS: No.

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DR WILLIAMS: Is it all right to finish now?

MS REYNOLDS: Yeah.

DR WILLIAMS: Everything you would like to have said is - - -

MS REYNOLDS: Mm-hmm.

DR WILLIAMS: Yes, okay.

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MS REYNOLDS: Yeah. I'll probably send you - - - I'll put a submission in.

DR WILLIAMS: Yeah.

MS REYNOLDS: Yeah.

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DR WILLIAMS: Well, just for the purposes of closing this meeting. Um, I'd just like to thank you all, and for attendance today, we appreciate the effort you've gone to, um, with also materials. Um, and, um, just explaining to us a little bit more, more, more detail about the significance of, of, of this, of this site. And we thank you all for very much for your attendance. And I'll, I'll close the meeting. Thank you.

MR ALLEN: Uh, just could... Sorry, if you're finished, there, there could, there could be a lot more told.

MS REYNOLDS: Yeah.

10 MR ALLEN: And that's why we, we've asked for an Aboriginal archeologist to be, to go over all this again. 'Cause like I said, the land council dismissed what, it was the first submission of reports that we've done. The commission denied the land council themselves, and then they've dismissed it and, and said, "Nah, there's no copies." Well, you've just seen here that there is copies. And like I said, I can tell you a lot more about them.

DR WILLIAMS: Okay.

MR ALLEN: So they have been told, and things like that.

DR WILLIAMS: Yeah.

20 MR ALLEN: And things that I've seen when I've walked away.

DR WILLIAMS: Yeah. No, no, thanks Bill. No, you've all made - - - it's very clearly made that, that, that particular point. Thank you.

MR ALLEN: Thank you.

DR WILLIAMS: Thank you very much.

MS SYKES: Thank you.

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DR WILLIAMS: Thanks. Thanks, Nyree.

MEETING CONCLUDED

[5.50pm]