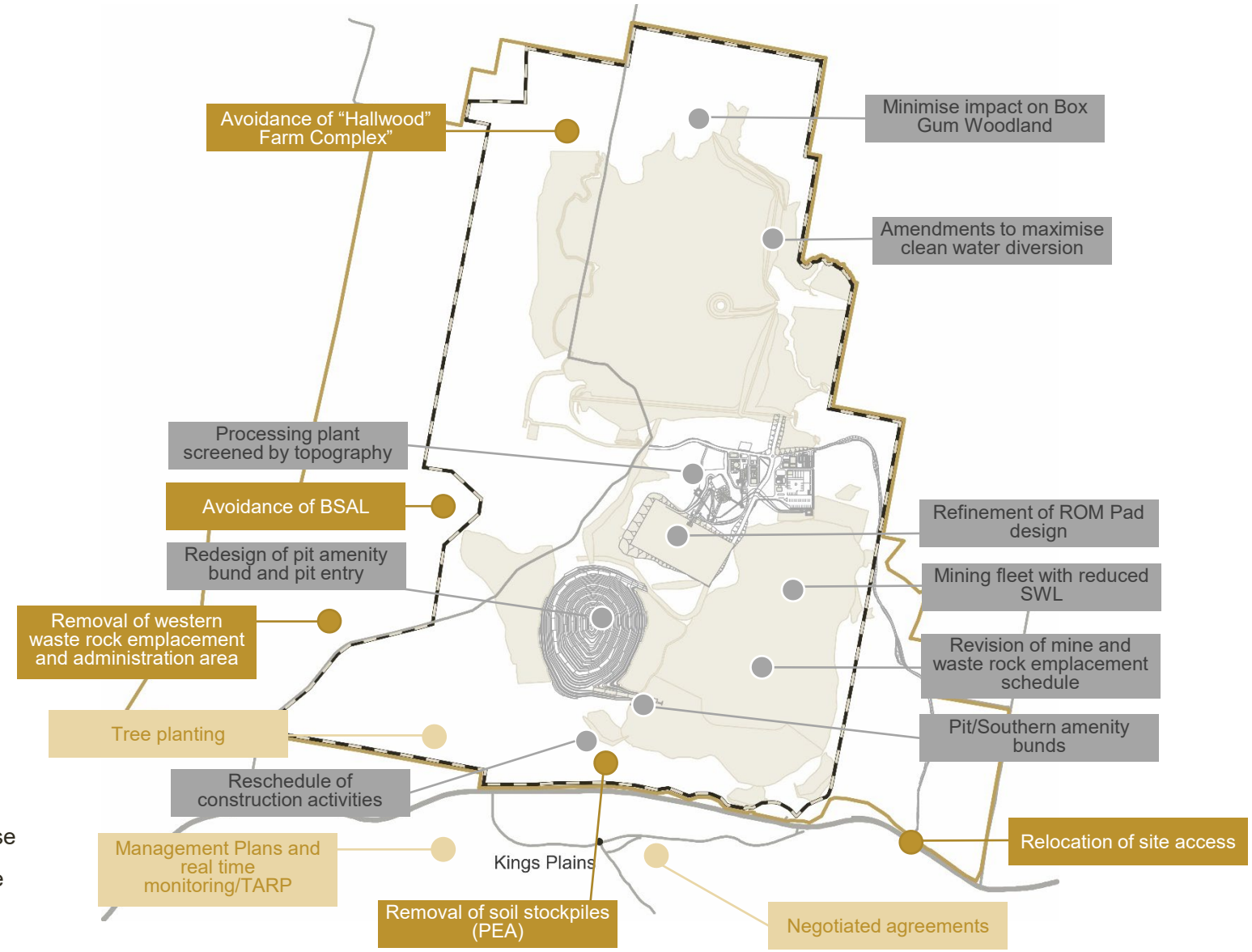
Independent Planning Commission – Applicant Meeting

Tuesday 6th December 2022

Response to DPE's Assessment Report/Recommended conditions

Project Evolution

The project design for which approval is sought represents the outcome of an iterative process, that has responded to community and government agency feedback and the outcomes of robust technical studies



Response to DPE's Assessment Report/Recommended Conditions

Community sentiment has continued to increase with time and knowledge of the project

2019

Submissions on the EIS

- A significant number of submissions were form letters and, accounting for this, 52% of unique community submissions came from the Blayney LGA, where the mine will be and of these, 52% were in support

2022

Independent Sentiment surveys

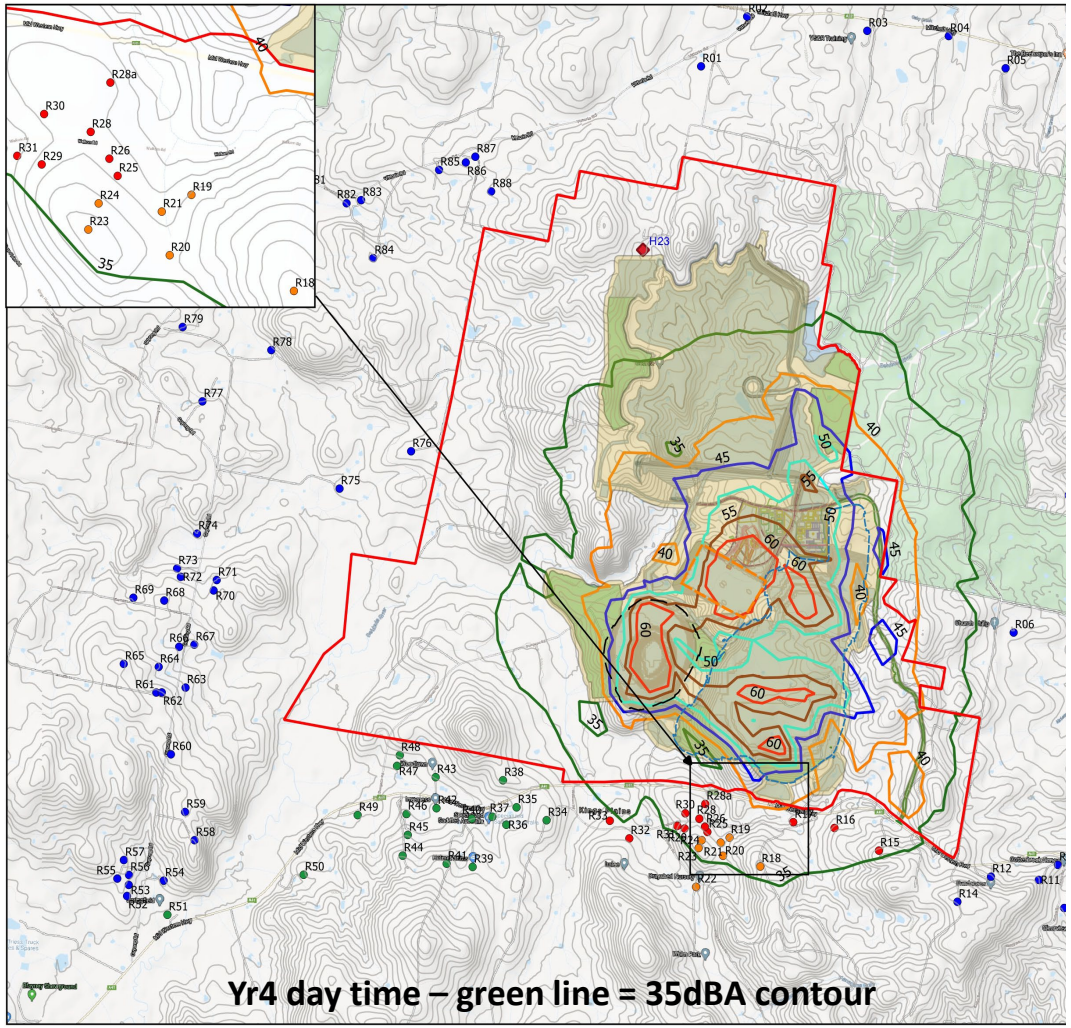
Showed broad community support for the project

- **70%** of Blayney LGA participants stated they felt positive towards the project
- Only **15%** opposed the project

Social & Amenity Impacts

1. Noise

- **Construction** activities (first 6 months):
  - Daytime only
  - Scheduled to meet criteria
- **Operations**:
  - Criteria met in the daytime
  - ‘Negligible’ exceedances in Yr 1 & 4 during evening/night.
  - Does not trigger VLAMP
- **Minimisation/mitigation**:
  - Proactive noise management
  - Negotiated agreements
  - DPE Recommended Conditions outline monitoring, mitigation and management to meet criteria

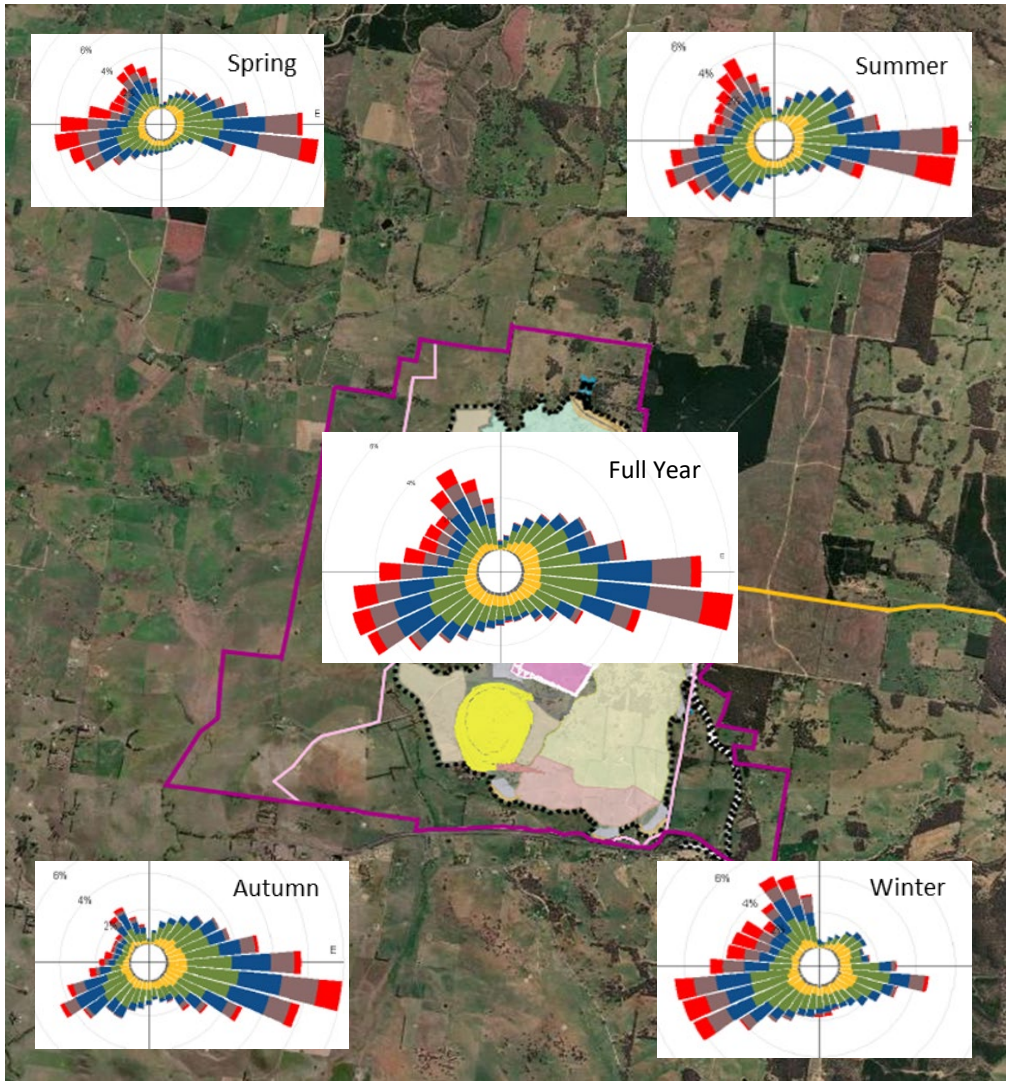


“… the Department and EPA consider that the project’s noise and air quality impacts would be able to remain within the limits of applicable policies and guidelines and that the proposed mitigation measures (including Regis’ offer for negotiated agreements) would be feasible and reasonable. “

Social & Amenity Impacts

2. Air quality

- Prevailing easterly and westerly winds
- Predicted air quality levels comply with EPA criteria
- Continuous real-time air quality monitoring
- DPE Recommended Conditions outline monitoring, mitigation and management to meet criteria



"The Department considers that the air quality impacts of the development could be managed to meet levels acceptable under NSW government policy."

Social & Amenity Impacts

3. Visual

- Project design aims to avoid visual and lighting impact associated with mining and processing operations (e.g. incorporation of pit and southern amenity bunds)
  - Pit amenity bund ~ 26 m high
  - Southern amenity bund ~ 79 m high
- Vegetation screens established - 10,000 native trees planted between 2016 and 2022
- Progressive rehabilitation
- Negotiated agreements with close neighbours
- DPE Recommended Conditions outline mitigation and management measures

"The Department considers that Regis' proposed mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to an acceptable level."

Social & Amenity Impacts

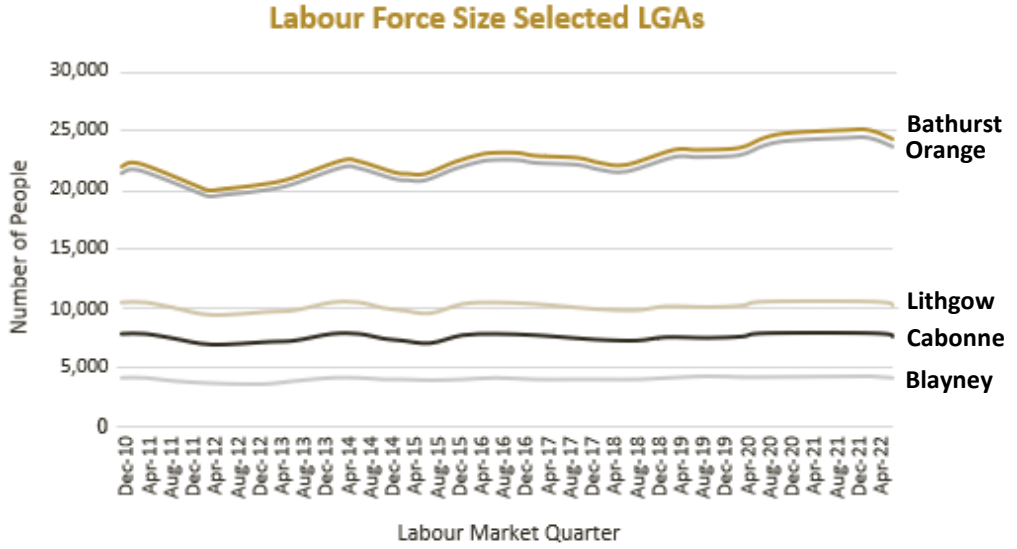
4. Negotiated agreements

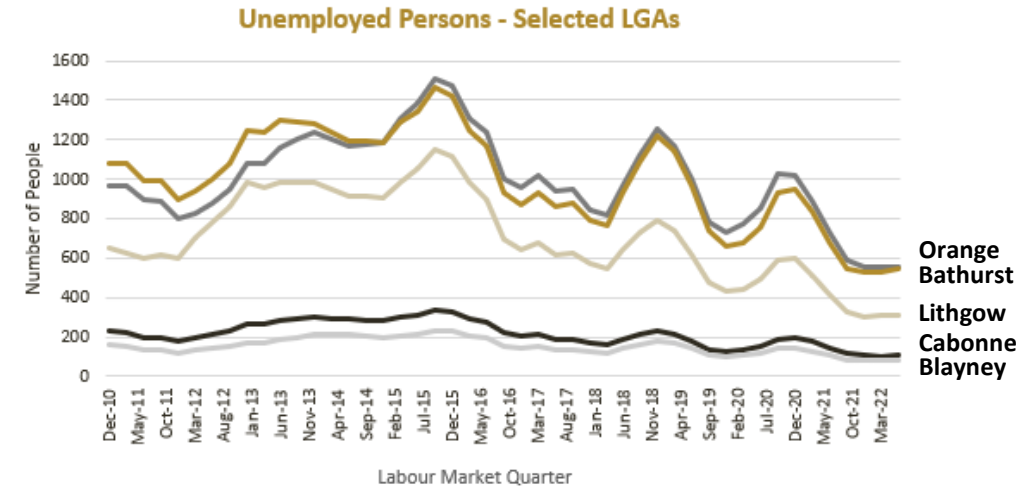
- Offered to 18 landowners in Kings Plains
- 8 landholders have signed
- 7 in progress
- Regis has commenced implementation of some mitigation measures (e.g. planting)

The Department notes that these agreements afford flexibility to these landowners if they wish to relocate based on experienced noise, air and visual impacts if the mine were to proceed.

Social – Workforce

- Recognise challenging labour market
- Hierarchy of locals first
- Adaptive management in accordance with the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) and will include:
  - Local Content Plan
  - Recruitment and Training Strategy
  - Construction Workforce Accommodation Strategy
  - Indigenous Participation Plan





The Department considers that the social impacts on some community members are inevitable with the introduction of a mining development in the locality and notes that the mitigation measures proposed by Regis are consistent with industry best practice to reduce the impacts as far as practicable.

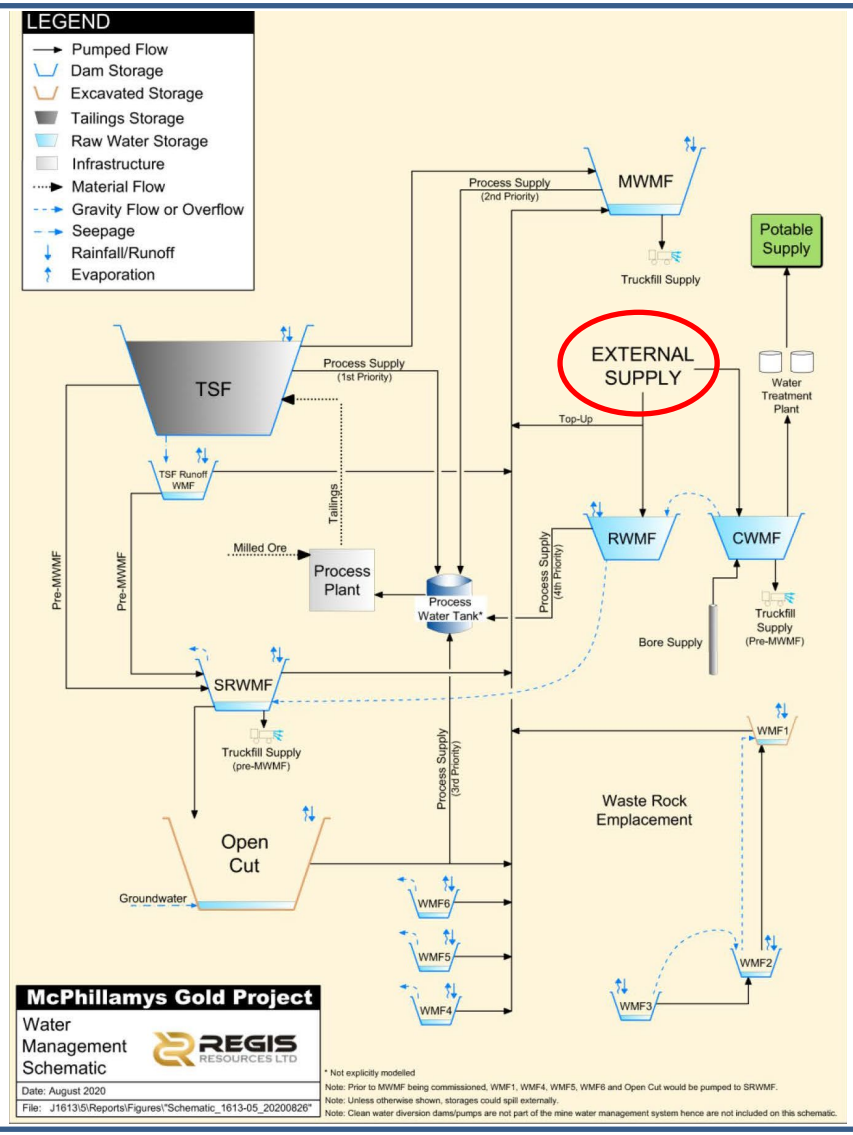
Water – Recent Rainfall Event

- The recent rainfall events in November 2022 - intensity of a 1 in 5 yr event on site
- 132 years of daily climate data used for site water balance
- No uncontrolled overflows are forecast – site designed to manage minimum 1 in 100 yr event.

"The project's water management system is designed to provide sufficient capacity in the mine water management storages to avoid discharges during periods of high rainfall …"

Water – External Water Supply

- Water management system designed to maximise the re-use of mine water and sediment-laden water captured on site
- Pipeline water taken as needed
- Water supplied via the pipeline will be used as makeup supply to the processing plant



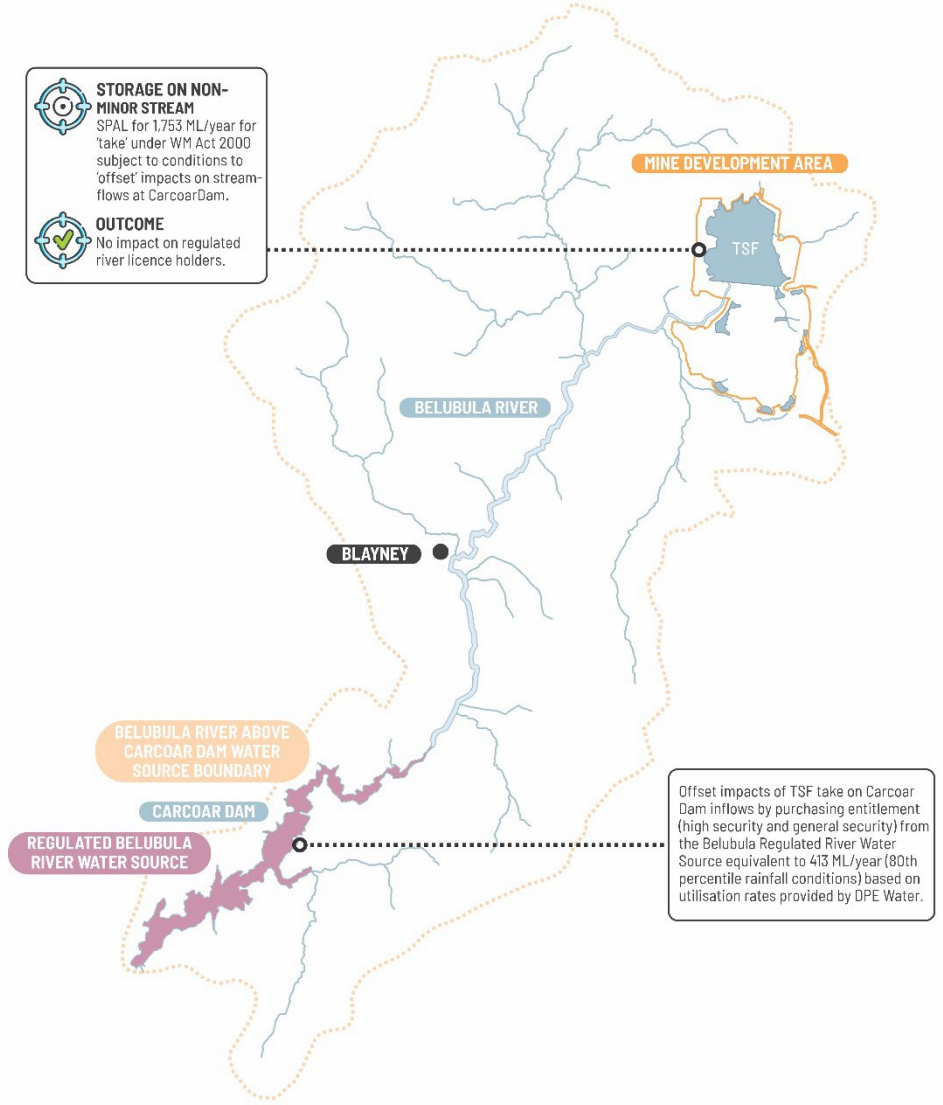
The project's water management system is designed to provide sufficient capacity in the mine water management storages to avoid discharges during periods of high rainfall …

Water – Salt Balance

- Nil discharge site with salt accumulation over time.
- No salt balance has been carried out due to:
  - Relatively low salinity of pipeline water
  - TSF provides storage for the accumulation of salt
  - Highly saline process water does not limit gold recovery

Status of Water Entitlements

- There is a clear pathway to obtain remaining required water licences
- Regis would apply for Special Purpose Access Licence (SPAL) if the Project is approved
- Information to support a SPAL application has been prepared and provided to DPE



… the Department considers that there is now a clear pathway for Regis to acquire the relevant water entitlements in accordance with the Water Management Act 2000.

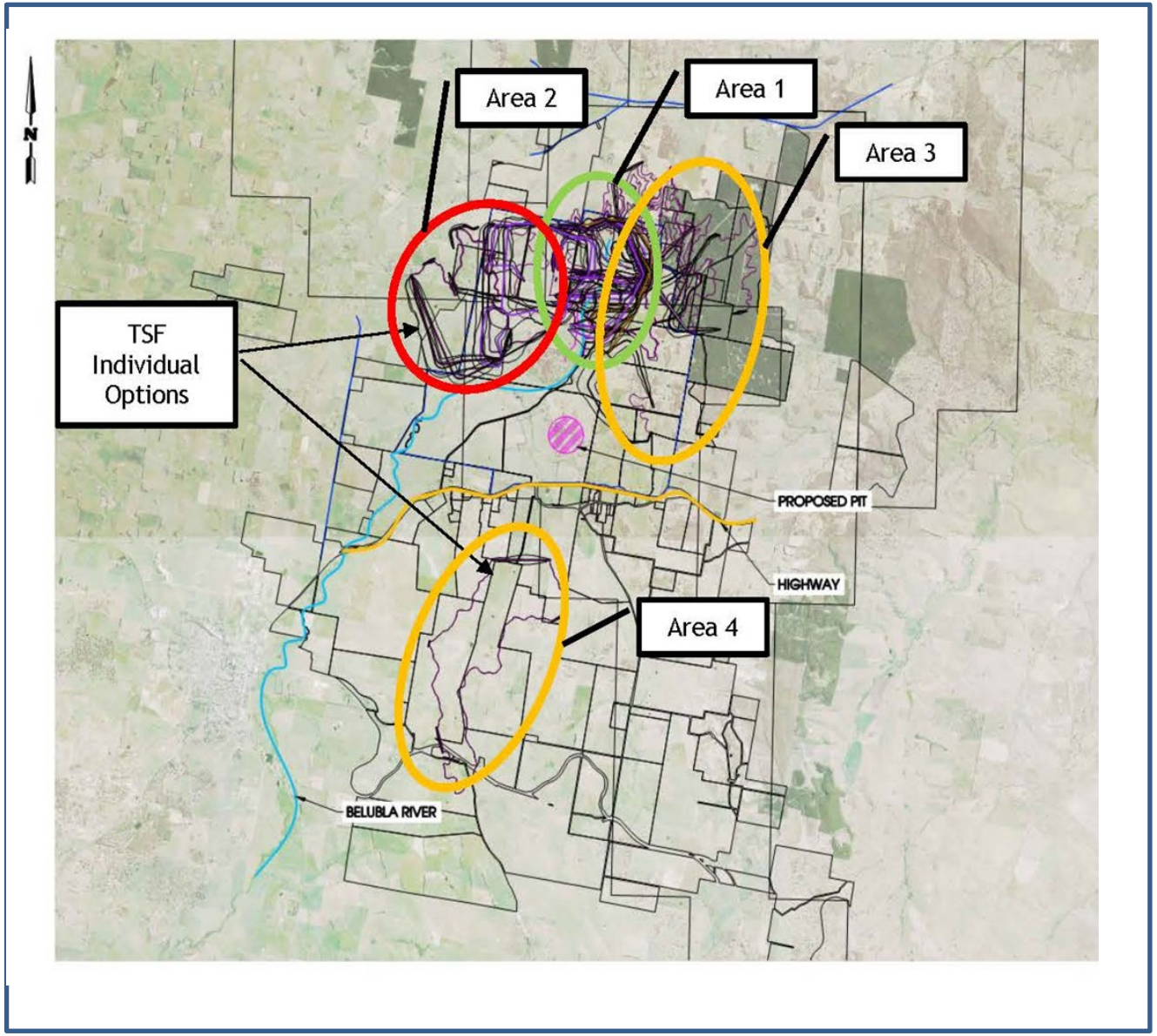
TSF Disposal Alternatives

- TSF risk assessment and Tailings Disposal Options Review
- Independent expert review – "*optimal disposal method for the site of thickened tailings*" (Professor David Williams, Prof. Geotechnical Engineering University of Queensland)

Variables	Thickened Tailings Disposal	Sub-Aqueous Disposal	Paste Disposal	Filtered Tailing (Cake)	Co-mixing (crushed waste with filtered tailings)
Water Use	Med	High	Low	Low	Low
Liner/Seepage Complexity	Med	High	Med	Low	High
Cyanide Breakdown Rate	High	High	Low	High	High
AMD Risk (if PAF Tailings)	Med	Low	Med	Med	Med
Tailings Stability	High	Low	High	High	Med
Energy Use	Low	Low	High	High	High
Tailings Footprint	Low	Low	High	Med	High
Location Suitability	High	Low	Low	High	Med
Capital Cost	Med	High	High	High	High
Operating Cost	Low	Med	Med	High	High

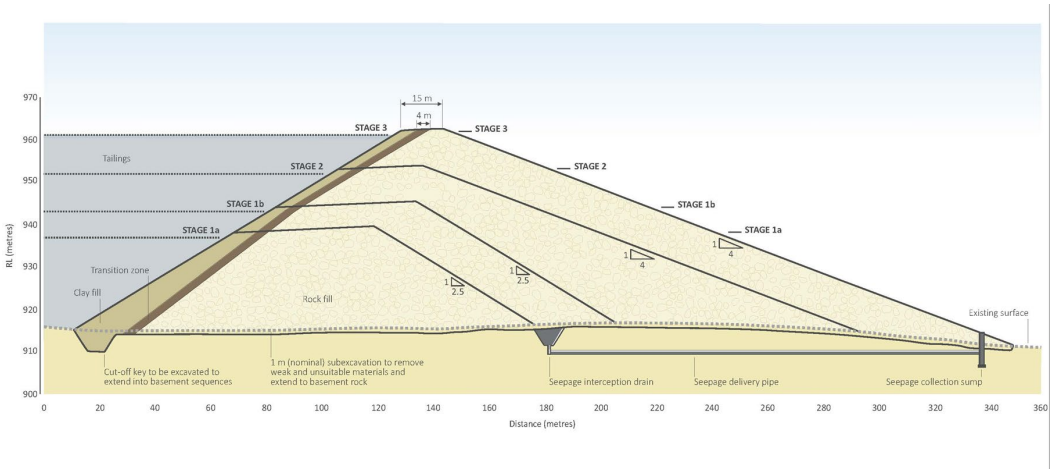
TSF Alternative Locations

- 30 designs across four locations
- Final location selected due to:
  - Minimal impact on catchment
  - Low permeability geology
  - Efficient dam wall
  - Reduced overall project area
  - Visual screening by topography



TSF Design

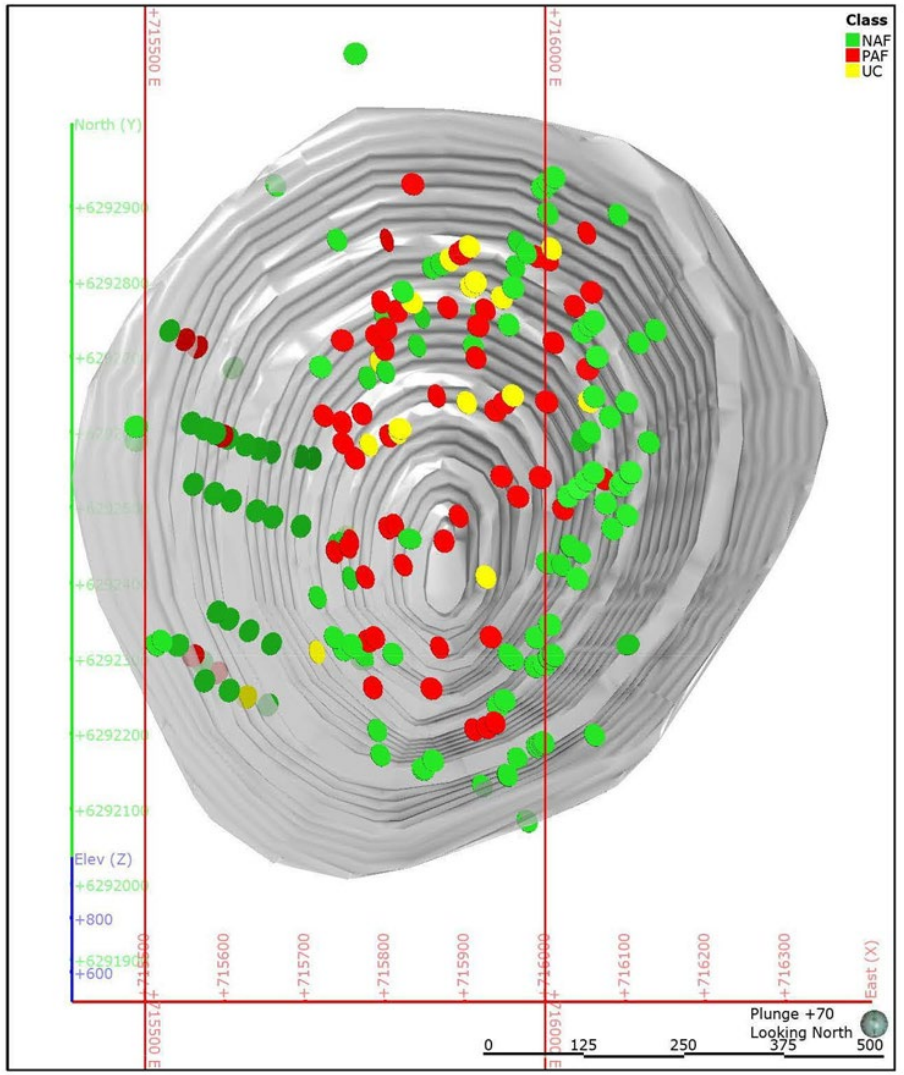
- TSF design based on:
  - Dams Safety NSW; and
  - ANCOLD guidelines, which reference the ICOLD guidelines
  - Downstream lift construction - most robust approach
- Also consistent with the recently released ICMM tailings standards
- TSF will be regulated by Dams Safety NSW and will need to comply with AS/NZS ISO 9001:2016 and be independently reviewed



Regis and their consultants are commended for having gone beyond leading practice in their very comprehensive Feasibility Study for the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) of the McPhillamys Gold Project (Dr Williams 2020)

TSF – Tailings Characterisation

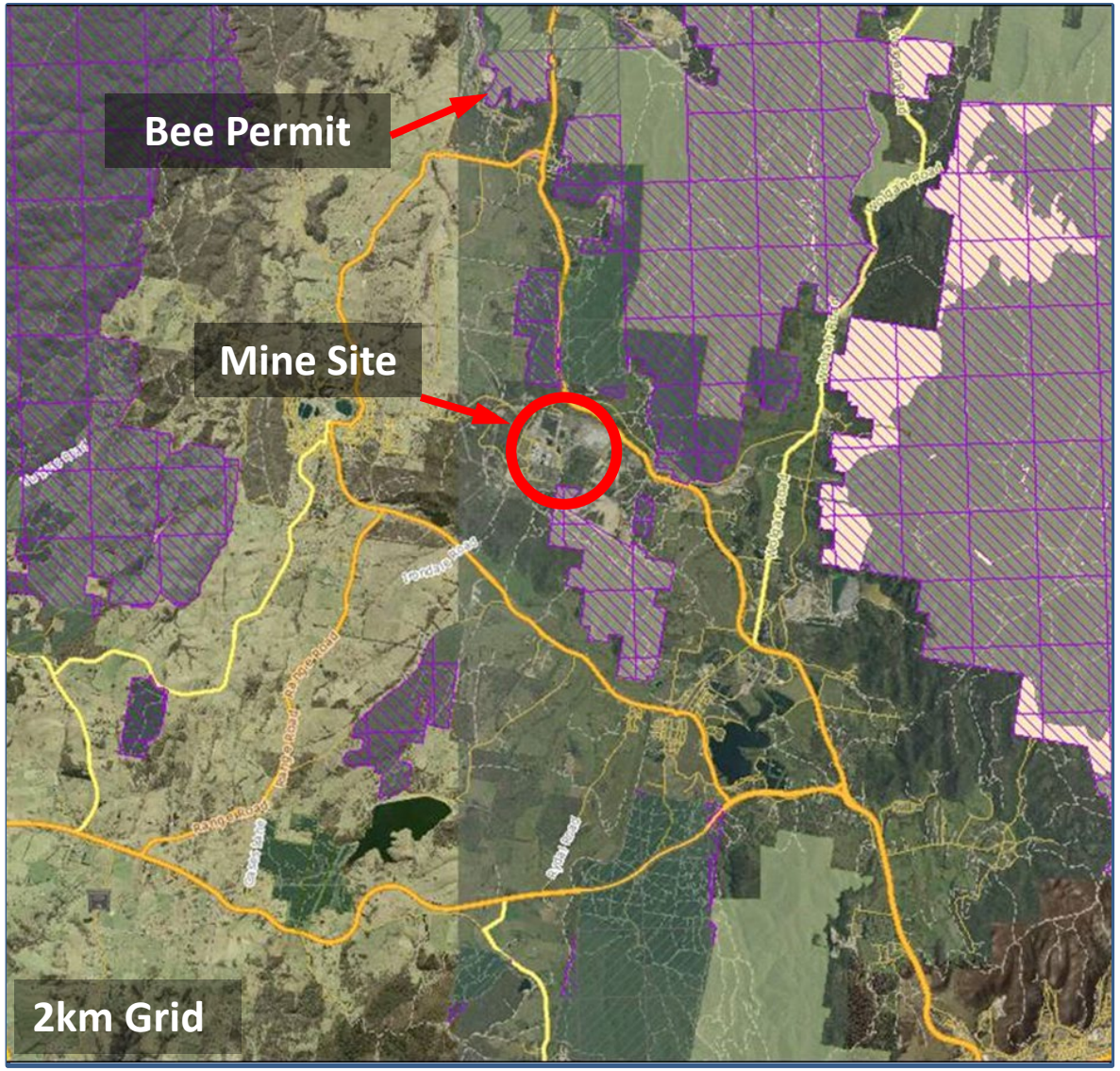
- Geochemical characterisation of tailings using multiple samples taken from across the open pit undertaken by SRK
- Tailings are expected to be PAF however neutralised by high pH process water
- The Project will be a nil discharge site



The TSF is also designed as a multi-barrier system. Water that seeps through the tailings material would be intercepted at a cut-off drain at the base of the embankment, which would direct seepage to a storage downslope of the TSF embankment for redistribution through the sites water management system.

Agriculture – Apiary Industry

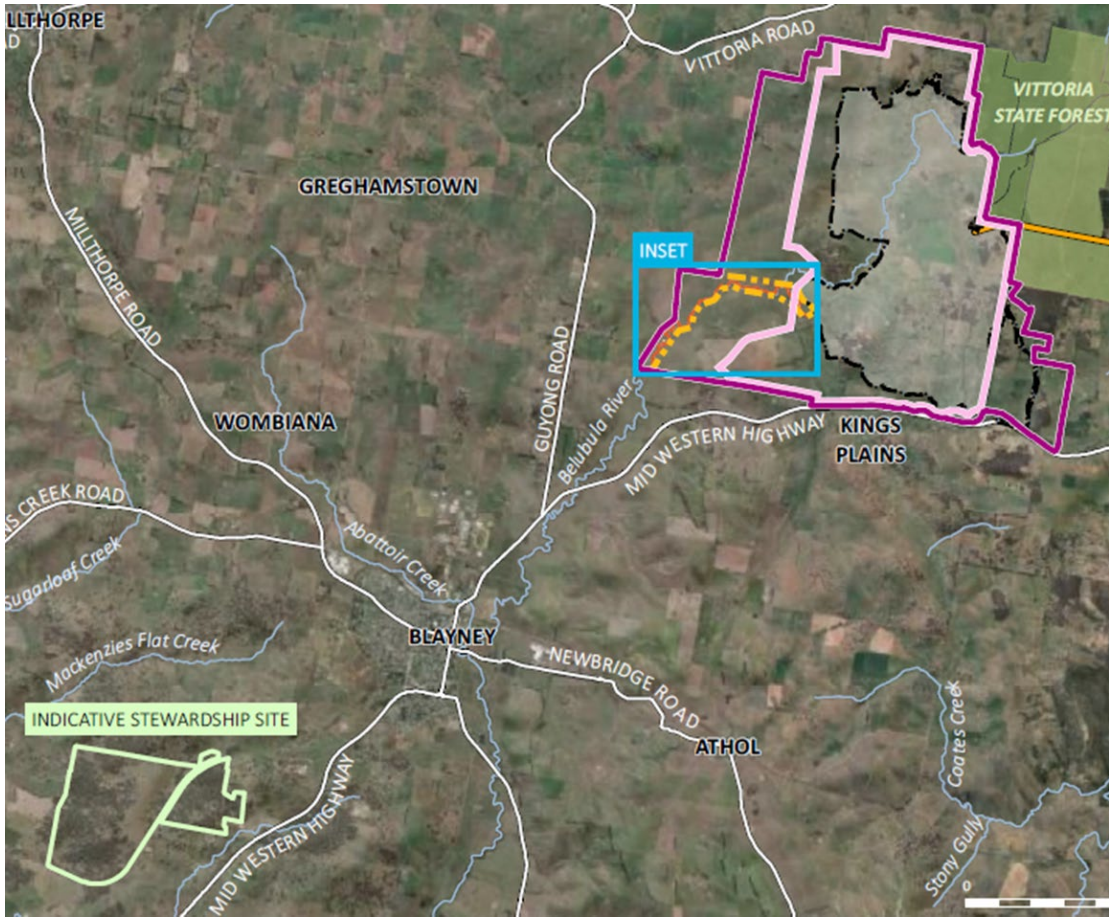
- Review by EnRisks concluded the Project would not result in a significant loss in bee foraging habitat nor adversely impact the bee industry.
- Project has been designed to avoid all high condition Box Gum Woodland adjacent to Vittoria State Forest
- Review of 'BPASS' shows bee keeping operations adjacent to operating mines in NSW
- DPE's Recommended Conditions:
  - 22 ha of Box Gum Woodland to be established next to Vittoria State Forest
  - Apiary monitoring and management program to be developed in consultation with apiary industry



The Department considers that the agricultural impacts of the project are acceptable, subject to the recommended conditions.

Biodiversity Offsets

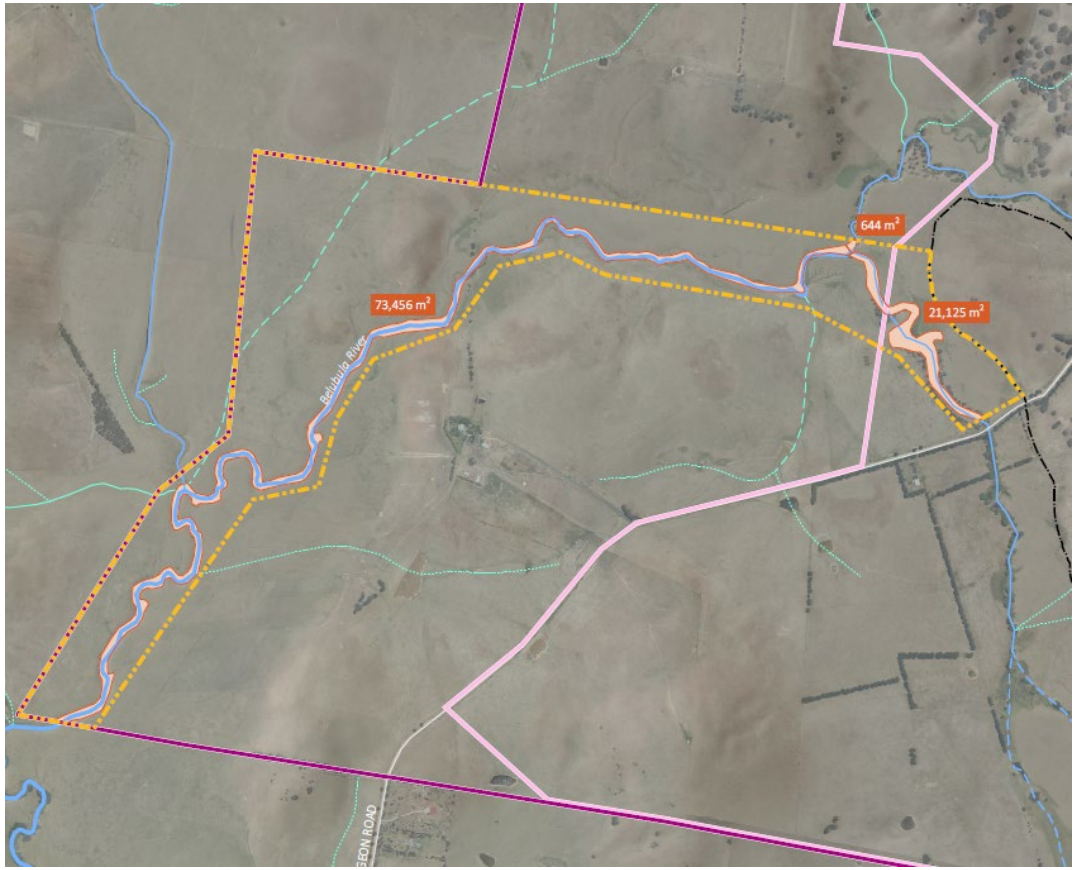
- Regis will offset biodiversity impacts in accordance with the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- 384ha offset site identified
  - Meets all Box Gum credit requirements
  - 70% of koala credits
- Draft Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement prepared



The Department considers that, subject to conditions, the project could be undertaken in a manner that would result in acceptable short-term impacts on biodiversity values and the proposed offsets would result in improved biodiversity outcomes in the medium to long term.

Biodiversity – Aquatic Offsets

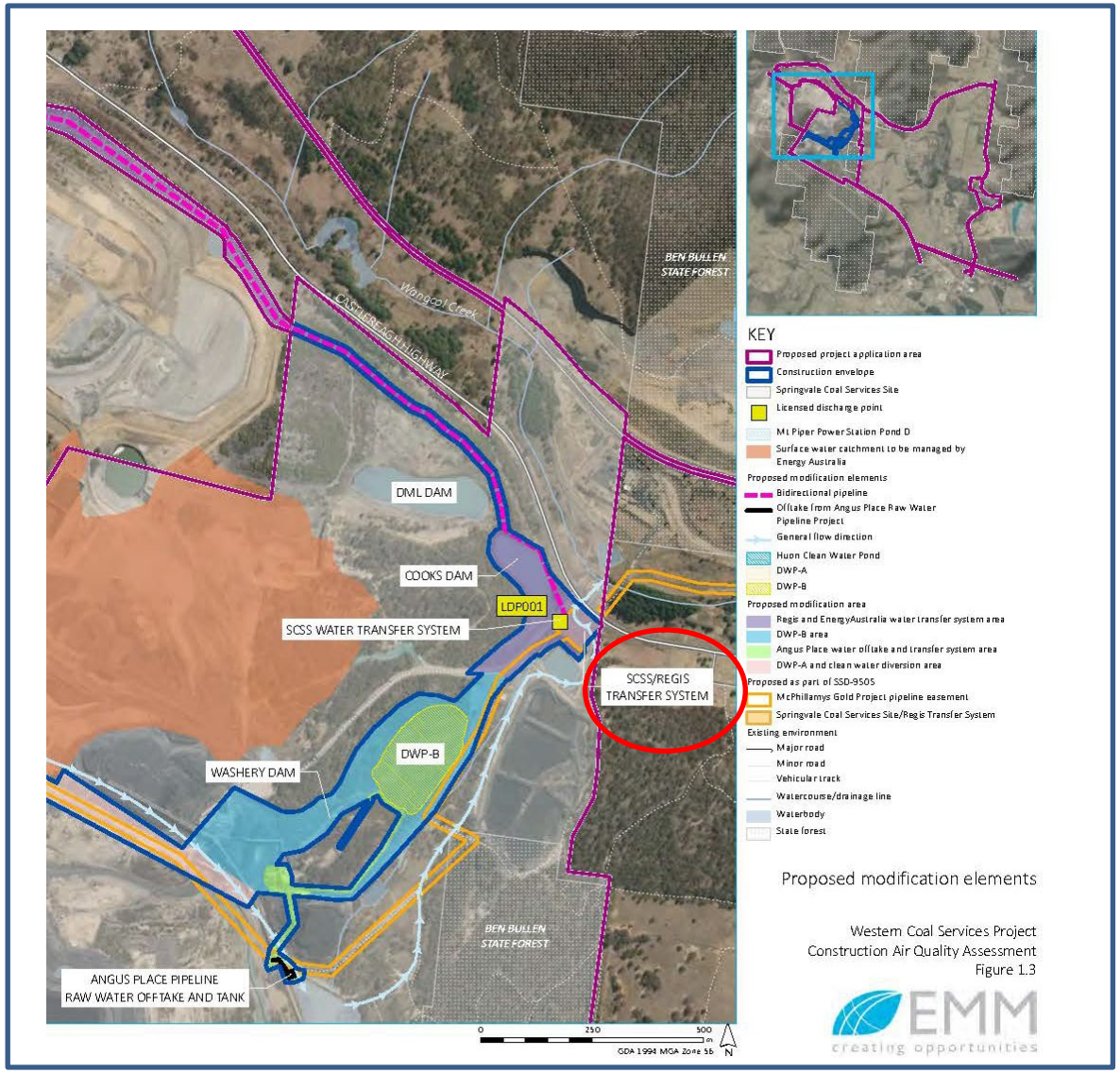
- Aquatic offset identified on the Belubula River within the project area
- Meets 2:1 ratio
- Agreed to in principle by DPI Fisheries
- Regis will further rehabilitate and remediate waterways outside the mine disturbance area, including sections of the Belubula River and in Tributaries A and B



The Department considers that the offsets are consistent with the principles of the Aquatic Biodiversity Fact Sheet, and NSW Fisheries recommendation, and has recommended conditions requiring Regis to implement these measures.

Water Supply Pipeline Status

- Regis has finalised the Water Offtake Deed with Centennial Coal and Energy Australia and is now progressing to formal execution
- Approval granted for Centennial Coal's Western Coal Services Mod 4, making provision for the pipeline



Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

- Significant consultation has been undertaken with the Aboriginal community since 2016
- All identified sites assessed as low scientific, educational or aesthetic significance, and moderate to high Aboriginal cultural heritage significance
- The available historical evidence does not confirm that any Frontier Wars conflict sites were within the mine project area
- Heritage NSW concluded:
  - *"…the proposed mitigation measures to reduce harm to Aboriginal objects are adequate and proportionate to the type of objects and the land use disturbance history and that the assessment adequately complied with the Aboriginal consultation requirements".*

Example of a stone scatter identified as part of one of the cultural heritage surveys.

With implementation of the appropriate measures outlined above, the Department considers that the project's impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage are acceptable under NSW government policy.

Historic Heritage

- No listed items in the project area
- A number of historic heritage sites listed in the Blayney LEP are located in the vicinity of the Project area
- Project amended to avoid Hallwood
- Historic heritage management plan will guide the management of heritage items.

The Department's assessment of these matters includes Heritage NSW advice, which considered the historical cultural heritage assessment as appropriate and recommended conditions, should the project be approved.

Concluding comment

“. . . Regis has designed the project in a way to achieve a practicable balance between maximizing resource recovery and minimising associated impacts on the surrounding landholders and the environment through best practice, contemporary practices and mitigation measures.”

– DPE Assessment Report Executive Summary