

Submission from Janet Walk 4245 Lue Rd Camboon.

I am opposed to the Bowdens Lead mine amendment for the following reasons.

My tourism businesses

I operate two successful businesses. Both are agritourism short stay accomodation. The business is expanding and will soon be applying via planning permission for another two venues. This is on the bck of Rylstone/Lue/Mudgee booming and expanding tourist industry.

The Lue Rd is described as “the scenic route” between Mudgee and Rylstone and goes via Lue. Tourists at my venue use the Lue Rd to access wineries, restaurants, cafes in Mudgee. The proposed amendment would seriously disrupt this. The moving of the power line is a major work and would mean that tourists would have to go via the Castlereigh Highway adding a full 60 minutes (round trip) to the journey. This would seriously impact the businesses in Rylstone as well because many people take the Lue Rd route stopping off at Rylstone on their way back to Sydney. The proposal says that it would take 8-10 months, however as we all know that is a gestimate and things seem to take longer sometimes twice as long. Having been through the disruption of bushfires and now Covid restrictions, I fear that this Lead mine is another disruption to many established businesses that the community does not want.

As a Mental Health Nurse (MA), I am also aware that the disruption the community would have to endure on top of everything else in the past 2 years, is too much. Particularly in light of the fact that the whole project threatens the water, air and noise quality of the area. This is also a direct threat to the tourism industry. The tourism industry in Rylstone is incompatible with the proposed Lead mine and threatens more jobs of the town – established, sustainable, clean jobs that bring wealth to the town and not to “shareholders”.

There is also the important issue of aesthetics . There are a significant numer of tourist operations in Lue, colleagues of mine who also operate agri-tourist venues. The moving of the power line would severely scar the visual aesthetics of beautiful historic Lue. Additionally and certainly most important is the effect of moving the power line to a ridge and it's impact on Aboriginal Heritage song lines. I am completely opposed to this amendment and the whole Bowden project which seeks to displace the Lue village, as is evidenced by the response to submissions which did not seek to engage in any meaningful to address the two main objections – that of the tailings dam and is't inevitable leaking contaminating the water of Lawson Creek, and acid rock waste.

Bowden's intend to shove the residents of this area out by building structures that imperil lives and livelihoods. This amendment is the latest example of bully business coming to our town and thinking they can change it all to suit their shareholders. It's time to lay this stranded asset to rest. It didn't work for previous owners, Kingsgate and it still doesn't for Bowden's.