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The Director,
Resource Assessments,
Planning and Assessment,
DPIE,
Locked Bag 5022,
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NSW 2124

Dear Sir,

APPLICATION NAME: BOWDENS SILVER MINE AMENDMENT
APPLICATION NUMBER: SSD5765
COMPARISON WITH CADIA : CRYSTALLINE SILICA AT PM 2.5

I **object** to this proposal (SSD 5765).

I declare that I **have not made any Donations or Gifts** to any political party or personnel in the last two years.

A little over 100 kilometres away is Newcrest's Cadia gold mine. It has similar characteristics to the proposed Bowdens mine. Notably these are the mining of a heavy metal ore and the winning of the metal or concentrate by grinding (pulverising) and flotation separation. Most importantly is the incorporation of a Tailings Dam (TSF).

In 2018 Cadia's dam failed and sludge poured into the adjacent landscape. That was potentially catastrophic but it was repaired.

More recently and of even greater concern is the dust coming off their TSF crust. The white dust has covered pastures on nearby cattle properties and caused health problems for the farmers and their families.

The dust is stirred up by the wind and it is distributed well beyond the Cadia boundary by wind.

The dust has been found to contain substantial amounts of crystalline silica (Silicon oxide) at PM 2.5. This is dangerous. This is the fraction that when inhaled gets into the lungs and the human bloodstream.

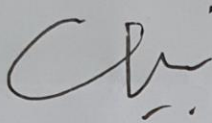
Silica is the most abundant mineral on earth; to be found in almost any rock, as at Bowdens. If the Bowdens project were to proceed the TSF would be a source of wind borne PM 2.5 silica. Whilst

Bowdens modelling consultants Ramboll have used a flawed dust concept (a point source NOT several hundred acres (which is the reality) they pretend that this will not happen. Bowdens figure 4.4.2 shows that the whole mine property is a dust emitter.

They do admit, however that many tonnes of dust (and HCN) will be produced from the TSF by wind erosion.

DPIE must reject the Bowdens proposal in full on the basis that it would cause health and agricultural damage similar to that seen at Cadia.

Yours sincerely,



15/8

R C Plummer