



Birding NSW Inc

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Ms Rose-Anne Hawkeswood
Planning NSW

By Email to Rose-anne.Hawkeswood@planning.nsw.gov.au

26 July 2020.

Dear Ms Hawkeswood,

RE: Bowden's Silver Mine Project, SS Development 5765

The four-hundred members and friends of Birding NSW have asked me to **object** on their behalf to further developments and damage to native bushland in NSW.

Radical new thinking is needed when it comes to loss of our unique flora and fauna. Clearly we have seen the devastation with 2019-20 bushfires adding hugely to the losses occurring over past decades. The many threatened species of birds, animals, trees and undergrowth has been well documented and continually noted to Governments. We submit that:

Re-planting of native trees does not work. It takes a hundred years for a tree to be able to sustain the life we are taking for granted.

Offsets do not and cannot work. Each individual locality houses thousands of species when we include insects, lichens, fungi, moss, birds, reptiles, mammals, fish and amphibians. Once that area is cleared, all the life has gone, never to be restored. It cannot move to another location which also, may not be secured into the future. Even when a proposed "offset" is next door to a proposed development, it cannot work to preserve the populations and genetic integrity of rare species.

BioBanking is even worse as the idea of money being paid by developers to provide for "future" biodiversity is simply impossible.

Toxic wastes and water: The above is only talking about the land. We also have concerns about ground water and toxic wastes; extensive use of our most precious element, largely commoditised in this country, water.

Any mine where minerals are retrieved from the ground will eventually run out of that mineral. The Unique Australian bush (80% of flora and fauna in this country can be found nowhere else in the world) will be long gone and the remaining landscape forever a desert.

Retaining the bush will provide value and human wellbeing for thousands of years. A silver mine will not.

We urge your Department to reject any further developments that destroy our beautiful Australian landscape.

Yours Sincerely

Ian Bailey. Office of Conservation
Birding NSW.

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