I live in Sydney but together with my husband, we own a grazing and cropping property near Cassilis. My husband's family have a farm downstream from the proposed Bowdens Mine on the Lawson Creek. We often come to Mudgee from Cassilis to shop and eat out at local restaurants and wineries, as well to visit extended family in the Lue area.

Mudgee and its surrounding countryside are picturesque. A proposed lead zinc and silver mine such as described in the EIS would greatly detract from the ambience of the district.

Furthermore, the questionable economics and lack of long term benefits presented in the EIS do not outweigh the large and long term environmental risks and uncertainty caused by the development, operations, mine closure and rehabilitation of the Bowdens Mine.

With the Mudgee, Lue and Cassilis areas just emerging from one of the worst droughts on record, ongoing water security and quality to existing landowners is paramount. The EIS makes a number of broad and unsubstantiated assumptions as to the Bowdens Mine securing reliable water supply, for both for its operations as well for managing ongoing rehabilitation. Not only will surface and groundwater be significantly impacted the Bowdens Mine, but ultimately, the inevitable fall back for water security is to the nearly underground water table and Lawsons Creek, as it is to existing grazing and cropping properties in the area such as for my extended family. They have relied on their water entitlement and quality of Lawsons Creek for generations to sustain their livelihood. Putting their and future generations livelihood at risk for such a marginal mine development is unacceptable.

For the above reason as well the following additional reasons, I would like to oppose Bowdens Mine

1) This mine is 2kms from the village of Lue and a primary school. 190 people live in Lue and many more live in the surrounding countryside.
2) Dust is the primary pollutants from the mine.
3) The EIS is vague and unclear for assessing community exposure to deposition of air-borne contaminants from mining operations for lead and heavy metals.
4) Dust transmission pathways to the village are excluded and insufficient to validate the EIS conclusions
5) No data is provided on lead and arsenic bio-accessibility to enable reliable health isk assessment to be performed and assess ingestion pathways
6) The EIS references out of date compliance levels for acceptable community exposure and blood level modelling – concludes that existing baseline soil and dust lead levels are elevated therefore the mine will not adversely affect community health.
7) Samples show lead bio-accessibilty values of 14.6% to 53.8% (average 32.7%) indicating that ingestion of surface and near surface mined material by people at Lue will have higher absorption of lead than lead found at Mt Isa.
8) The EIS underestimates community exposure levels because it doesn't use concentrate or mine ore materials as a source of dust and also does not analyse the effect of peak wind events biannually with change of seasons on dust movements – these omissions need to be corrected.
9) The compliance level for acceptable community exposure is taken from out of date guidelines (NSW 2003) which considers blood lead of children to be below 5 micrograms per decilitre.
10) Young children are most at risk as they absorb more than older children and adults, they have more hand to mouth activity and more negative neurocognitive/ behavioural outcomes.
11) There is no safe level of lead. Toxic effects are evident at less than 5ug/dL and have lifelong effect on multiple organs including the cardiovascular system

Due to the nature of the lead at Lue and the certainty that residents up to 4 kms from the mine will be badly impacted by lead dust, this mine should not proceed.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bowdens Mine EIS.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Baillieu