

PCU079876

Dr Robert Griffiths,

Coal Point,

NSW, 2283.

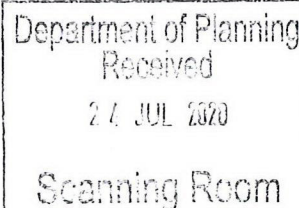
22nd July 2020

RE: Bowden's Silver Mine -State Significant Development No 5765.

Ms Rosie- Anne Hawkeswood,

NSW Government Planning.

Dear Ms Hawkeswood.



I write to register my objections to the proposed Bowden's Silver Mine near the village of Lue, NSW (State Significant Development No 5763).

My objections relate to the following specifics.

1. Human, Animal, and vegetation exposure to lead, in the surrounding environment and the village of Lue.
2. Contamination of the groundwater from contaminants leaching/leaking from the mine site.
3. Ability of existing water users to survive periods of drought with a new and large water user competing for the limited and finite water supply.
4. Questions regarding the certainty that the Mining Company will fulfill its rehabilitation commitments once the mine ceases production and hence an economic income.

1. Lead. The mine expects to recover 95,000 tons of lead over the course of its 16.5 years of extraction of ore and its onsite concentrate activities. It is inevitable that lead will find its way into the environment, it is only a question as to the dose. Lead is highly toxic to humans and other animals. Lead has been removed from water pipes, drinking and eating utensils, the paint used on kid's toys, and inorganic lead has been removed from petrol.

One question is to ask what human and animal testings protocols will be put in place to measure biological uptakes in humans and animals of the area?

What is going to be done if blood lead levels start rising?

Is anything planned to rehabilitate land surrounding the mine lease should it become contaminated by lead?

2. Contamination of groundwater.

The mine process and treatment will use and generate chemicals which are environmentally hazardous. There are both known and unknown aquifers leading to and from the mine site.

How is it possible to manage leakage of contaminants out of the mine site through unknown aquifers, particularly as the water table lowers.

3. Competition for water.

The mine will require significant amounts of water. This will compete with existing water users. The mine's 16.5 years of lifespan is likely to include one, perhaps two, serious droughts.

How are the water rights of the existing water users going to be impacted, and when and how much of the water resources of the pipeline from the Ulan will be called into play?

5. Certainty of Completion of Land Rehabilitation once the mining is Complete.

What assurances are there that the Mining Company will complete the land rehabilitation once the mining extraction is complete, particularly if there is a change of company ownership or insolvency?

Kind Regards,



Dr Robert Griffiths