

Planning and Assessment

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Locked Bag 5022

Parramatta NSW

2124

16/7/20

Re: 'Bowden Silver Project'



I, Bill Kempton, am writing in objection to the proposed Bowdens Silver Mine (Application Number SSD- 5765) to be located at Lue, near Mudgee, NSW.

My objection to the Bowdens Silver Mine relates to the following issues:

- Bowdens Silver P/L intends to utilize approximately 2000 megalitres of groundwater per year for the operation of the mine. Bowden's information indicates that this will reduce the on-site water table by 25 metres during the production phase. The Lawson Creek Valley will not sustain this reduction, particularly in times of drought (which have been occurring with greater frequency in recent years). The availability of fresh, clean water for all users on Lawson Creek will be greatly diminished, making agricultural and horticultural pursuits virtually untenable.
- The potential heavy metal contamination of Lawson Creek from possible leakage and/or overflow of the proposed 107-hectare 'tailings' dam (designed for the storage of chemicals such as arsenic, *cyanide, cadmium and lead) is of significant concern.
- Sealing the dam containing these contaminants using a 'geofabric liner' of only 1.75 mm thickness overtopped with 500 mm of crushed rock is the proposed solution to this challenge.
- There is a high probability that sharp rock debris will puncture this liner, allowing leakage of chemicals into the surrounding groundwater.
- How will this eventuality be monitored? Heavy metal contamination of Lawson Creek would render the water unfit for stock, domestic and irrigation purposes. Wildlife e.g. platypus, which have been sighted in our section of the creek, would also be at risk.
Furthermore, flooding of the 'tailings' dam by a major rain event could also cause the 'escape' of dangerous contaminants into Lawson Creek. What controls will be implemented to mitigate this outcome?
- Given that Bowdens Silver P/L has never established or operated a mine previously, it is possible (or likely), that such a project will compromise the health, well-being and livelihoods of the residents of Lue village as well as those living along the length of Lawson Creek.
- I encourage you to reconsider this development and recommend that Bowdens Silver P/L investigate alternative locations that would be more suited to this type of project and will have less potential negative impacts on people and the environment.

*It is unclear what strength of cyanide is to be used in the processing phase. Limited information is available. Likewise, no measurements of arsenic levels to be used are mentioned in the E.I.S. The omission of this data is also of concern.

Thank you for considering this submission to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment regarding this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'B. Kempton'.

B. Kempton

Mudgee NSW
2850