



PCU079853

Department of Planning
Received
22 JUL 2020
Scanning Room

21st July 2020.

Hi,

Please find attached my letter in regard to the proposed Silver mine at Lue - State Significant Dev. # 5765.

I would greatly appreciate that you read my letter and take the points put forward into consideration to the application being made.

I would like a notification of receipt of this letter which I have mailed to you.

Thank you for your time on this matter.

Elizabeth van Reece.

Nabiac NSW 2312.

Re: State Significant Development No. 5765

The purpose of this letter is to state my objection to the proposed silver mine at Lue - State Significant Development No. 5765.

This mine should not be allowed to proceed because of the disastrous effect it will have on draining water from the regional environment and polluting Mudgee's water supply. Secondly and almost as importantly, external water requirements for the operation of the mine have not been adequately addressed in the EIS and it is very uncertain that sufficient water will be available to maintain mining operations.

My name is Elizabeth van Reece and I regularly come to the Mudgee district to visit my relatives on their farm at Lue and cycle around the district. I'm a keen kayaker and have paddled the full length of the Murray River and the Murrumbidgee River and have first-hand experience of unsustainable environmental damage through mismanagement of water allocation and pollution. Consequently, I'm very sensitive about anything to do with our natural water supply.

As we have seen in the recent drought, water is in short supply in the Lawson valley catchment and there was insufficient for farmers to maintain stock levels even when sufficient forage was available, let alone the water needed for the natural environment.

Silver Mines Limited advise a significant proportion of the water for operations will be obtained by breaking through aquifers as the pit is developed, drawing down the ground water from the local area aquifer. After the short 16 year life of the mine they plan to leave the pit as-is, continuing to drain the landscape and evaporate the water indefinitely – denying access to this vital resource by farmers and the local community forever. This would be such an incredible waste of this scarce resource in Australia and it will become and remain toxic forever.

Even with the planned use of ground water, this project doesn't have sufficient water for its operations. For the mine to be viable, they need to source additional water from the Hunter Valley catchment via a pipeline from Ulan coal mine, however this is only a concept, with no certainty of becoming a viable solution. Ulan has no approval to send its excess Hunter Valley water over the Great Dividing Range into the Murray Darling catchment.

Surely the Dept. of Planning, Industry and Environment could not grant a mining lease with such uncertainty about the future viability of this proposed mine. If the mine is allowed to commence and is then shut down a few years later because of inconsistent water supply, it would be an environmental disaster. A bond paid by SVL would likely be unable to restore the landscape to anywhere near its original condition.

I ask the Dept. of Planning, Industry and Environment to require SVL to address this uncertainty about such a critical resource to the mine's viability by legally formalising that sufficient water supply exists before proceeding to consider the remainder of this proposal. If that issue can be resolved, then the proponent should be required to cleanse and return the pit's indefinite groundwater drawdown back into the Lawson valley.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth van Reece', written over a horizontal line.

Elizabeth van Reece

NABIAC 2312