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To Whom it may concern

**Bowdens Silver Project**

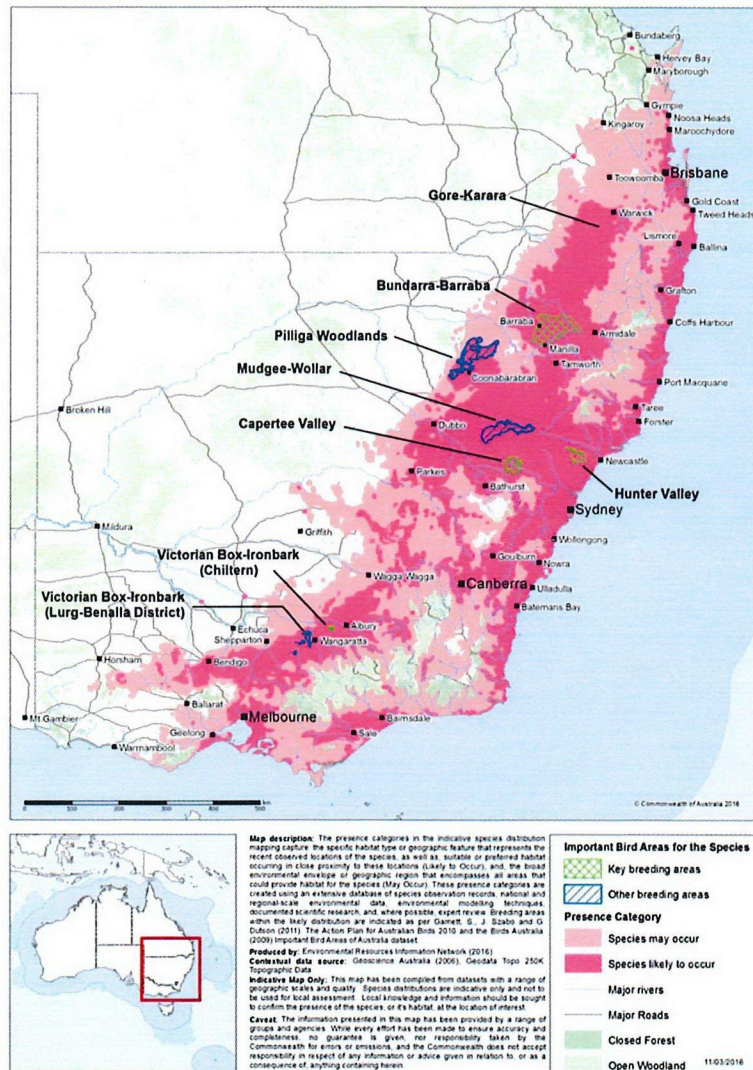
My name is Katie Thompson, I live in the Widden Valley where I have resided for over 20 years. We are lucky to live in a very special part of Australia as the beauty of the Widden Valley and surrounding areas are specular. I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my submission and concerns.

My submission today referrers to the **Bowdens Silver Project**

There are so many reasons that this mine should not be approved. From lead poisoning to noise pollution, extra traffic and many trucks through the historic town of Mudgee and devastation to the land which never be fully rejuvenated. But my biggest concern is the for the already endangered and struggling Regent Honeyeaters and Koalas that make this land their home.

A study in 2016 carried out by the Department of Environment found that this area is very important to the survival of the Regent Honeyeater:-

Habitat critical to survival Habitat critical to the survival of the regent honeyeater includes: • Any breeding or foraging habitat in areas where the species is likely to occur (as defined by the distribution map provided in Figure 2); and • Any newly discovered breeding or foraging locations. Key areas include the Bundarra-Barraba, Pilliga Woodlands, **Mudgee-Wollar and the Capertee Valley and Hunter Valley areas** in New South Wales, and the Chiltern and Lurg-Benalla regions of north-east Victoria (Table 2; Figure 1). Habitat critical to the survival of the regent honeyeater occurs in a wide range of land ownership arrangements, including on private land, travelling stock routes and reserves, state forests and state reserves, and National Parks. It is essential that the highest level of protection is provided to these areas and that enhancement and protection measures target these productive sites.



“Ongoing clearing of woodland and forest containing the key eucalypt species preferred by regent honeyeaters is a major threat. The historical clearance of foraging and nesting habitat has been extensive and dramatic in many areas, reducing the available nesting and foraging habitat to small remnants of what previously existed. These remnants are continuing to decline in area through residential, agricultural and industrial developments. The widespread loss of mature paddock trees throughout agricultural areas of the regent honeyeater’s range also affects the species. Many records of the species are from areas of scattered paddock trees or stands (Webster and Menkhurst, 1992; Recovery Team, unpublished data), and loss of these from the landscape represents an ongoing loss of habitat and will likely impact the ability of the birds to disperse widely. A result of ongoing habitat loss is that much of the regent honeyeater’s habitat is now fragmented, or altered to the point where it is no longer suitable for the species’ use. Fragmentation may also expose breeding populations of regent honeyeaters to greater predation pressure and increased harassment from other aggressive honeyeaters.”



Recent studies have also shown that our Koalas may not exist in NSW by 2050 due to loss of habitat.

An article in The Sydney Morning Herald found the following:-

- In NSW, koala habitat destruction increased from an average annual loss of 11,153 hectares in the period from 2004 to 2012, to 14,695ha between 2012 and 2017, or around 32 per cent.
- The koala was listed as vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act in 2012. Under the act anyone seeking to develop or destroy koala habitat must refer their plans to the federal government for assessment
- Biolink estimates the 2019-20 bushfires in NSW killed 6382 koalas up to mid-February.
- These population declines have prompted the World Wide Fund for Nature, which conducted the habitat loss report, to lobby for the koala to be listed as endangered rather than vulnerable.

The damage from 2019-2020 bushfires on the habitat of both the Koala and Regent Honeyeater will take years to assess. We need to save their environment now and help their numbers grow – not add to this devastation. It is these reasons I feel this mine has no place at Lue. These 2 endangered or vulnerable species need to be protected. If this mine should happen to be approved a large amount of nearby and connecting land needs to be put in aside to protect habitat and environment for their future generations. The impact on the community will be huge as this grotesque open cut mine will scare the landscape and the families that live nearby. Please stop the Bowdens Silver Project!

Kind regards



Katie Thompson