

24 July 2020

Phillip Cameron

Property co-owner: Wyuna, Bara Lue Road, Lue, NSW, 2850

Submission to EIS on Bowden Silver mine, Project SSD-5765

I am the property co-owner with my wife of the rural holding noted R87 in the Bowden's EIS otherwise known as Wyuna, Bara Lue Road, Lue, NSW 2850. We have owned Wyuna since 1997, over 23 years. We are directly and significantly impacted by the planned Bowden's Silver mine that would change our lives for the worst if it was approved.

I object to the Bowden's development application and seek that it be refused based on;

- 1) The potential health impact poisoning to our creek frontage, 24 hour/7 day continued noise from the mine and social impact to our family and local community.
- 2) The tranquility and peacefulness on Wyuna (and our local community) would be lost for 23 years, which for our purposes is essentially forever. We will be in our late 70's at which point we will not be in a position to develop this property. The whole reason we escape Sydney to our Wyuna haven is for the tranquillity, peacefulness, clean air and the private open space. Note that the potential poisonous tailings dam is planned to be approximately less than 1km from our creek and house.
- 3) My life long life aspiration and personal goal to retire on Wyuna would be ruined if the mine went ahead. My wife and I have worked tirelessly and poured a lot of money into Wyuna over 23 years in readiness to retire soon. We had been planning on building a new retirement house on Wyuna but have now stopped all planning. Our 2 boys (now 21 and 17) have grown up on Wyuna with lifelong beautiful memories and the intent is to one day pass the farm to them. Building of a mine so close to Wyuna would cause that goal to be lost forever.
- 4) We currently use our house as a short stay retreat for guests to enjoy the peace and tranquility which would be lost forever both financially and socially.
- 5) I envisage a significant negative financial impact on the value of the property, siting at the foot of this proposed mine with 24/7 noise, I doubt we will be able to sell the property once the mine has commenced construction. In addition, we could no longer offer Wyuna as a peaceful farm stay and will thereby lose our income from farm stays. We will also, I believe, lose our ability to offer our paddocks for agistment of cattle due to the potential lead dust poisoning.
- 6) The loss of wildlife including birdlife generally and fish and platypi from the Lawson Creek.

Bowden's has identified our property as subject to noise exceedances. Bowden's has offered us nothing in return for releasing them from liability for nuisance for 23 years, so we have NOT signed a VLAMP agreement. We have not agreed to anything with Bowden's however I note in the ES5 of the ESI the EIS project cannot proceed without the agreement of all landholders who will experience exceedances. I believe the mine would have a disastrous impact on Wyuna and us personally.

In addition, the things that make me worry with fear and the impact to our quality of life are:

- 1) the road construction noise and dust less than 600 metres from our house
- 2) truck noise on the relocated Maloney's Road inclusive of 218/day truck movements between 6:30am-6:30pm

- 3) construction of the 38m high tailing dam embankment with rock trucked and dumped from the open pit
- 4) noise from truck movements 6 days a week
- 5) blasting noise and vibrations in the open pit 6 days a week
- 6) potential health impacting dust landing in our creek, in our dam and on our roof that feeds our house tank
- 7) lead dust and potential health impacts on us, small children, other humans and animals
- 8) the impact to the Lue Public School that could harm the health of those innocent little children
- 9) the unprofessional and underhandedness of the Bowden's mine senior management to hide the truth of destruction – no noise reference in the EIS to noise generated from truck movements from mine site to tailings dam, no consideration to environmental disaster of the tailings dam

Furthermore, I am greatly concerned after reading the published submission of expert Dr Haydn Washington, Environmental Scientist, dated 16 July 2020. Dr Haydn Washington, an environmental scientist, is the former Experimental Scientist in CSIRO working on heavy metal pollution from mine sites. Summary below.

'Once you disturb a metal sulphide deposit and allow water and oxygen to enter, Acidithiobacillus will ensure acid mine drainage occurs and continues until the sulphide is all converted. There is no known solution to this reality, and acid mine drainage can continue for hundreds of years. Bowden Silver's failure to discuss this is both unscientific and unethical. The EIS is thus totally inadequate scientifically and ignores and downplays the risk of acid mine drainage. Accordingly, the project should be rejected.' Dr Haydn Washington, Environmental Scientist.

The Bowden's potential poisonous silver mine is planned just too close to our farm, our neighbours and the local Lue Community. It is just too dangerous for such an enormous mine to be less than 1-2km's from the Lawson Creek (pending location), overshadowing landholdings, local public school and Lue village. My understanding is that no lead is safe for the brain health and development of small children.

We have spent over 20 years of enjoyment improving and financially investing in the farm, spending years walking around the farm, watching and playing in the creek, seeing the platypus's in the creek, our children and future grandchildren playing in the creek, smelling the fresh country air will be lost essentially forever for us. The beautiful native birds, native wildlife including koalas in the area could potentially be lost forever. I go to Wyuna for this beauty and tranquility to escape with the aspiration to retire here. This would be lost forever, and my dreams and aspirations destroyed by allowing a potentially poisonous lead, zinc and silver mine too close to us.

We have had no 'real' mitigation offered. Even if Bowden's offered us air conditioning for the house (which we already have!) and window double glazing, the beauty of our farm is the experience outside which would be lost forever.

We bring friends and tourists to the area to enjoy the peace, the tranquility, the wildlife. This would cease. We would not be able to have children visit or stay at Wyuna due to the known lead poisoning on small children and could be held capable for.

We employ cleaners, farm workers and save re-homed racehorses.... this would be lost forever.

If the mine went ahead it would be devastating to our family.

The negative impact to the de-valuing of our property is real already with a planned mine, with a worsening impact if it happened. If the mine went ahead we would want to have the option to be

bought out by Bowden's and financially compensated to the true potential replacement of Wyuna with equivalent size, beauty and potential. Finding a placement farm of Wyuna beauty would not be easy.

We would want conditions in the Development Consent if the silver mine goes ahead which have real consequences if the nuisances are greater than the legal limits. It would be a disaster for us if it did. As a business person and property owner, I can't see any long-term tangible benefits of the mine at all...to bet the environment and health against it. It's mainly a zinc, acid and lead mine and not a silver mine which will be only 0.5% of what's mined.

I have been working on and off from the region during COVID-19 to escape the city and practice isolation within NSW government guidance. It has shown me that I can do my senior job from Wyuna which would be lost if the mine went ahead. If the mine went ahead I could not work on Wyuna with the noise and potential health impact. I would tell people to keep away from the local Lue region due to the hazardous risks covered.

The social impacts concern me greatly. It matters to me that the aboriginal drawings in the hill/mountain in the mine site will be directly impacted and this will be lost for ever. This gives me great concern of the historical loss that's been there for hundreds of years.

The impact of lead poisoning the creek, our family and future generations, impact on local communities and being only 2km's from the local Lue public school is just not worth it.

I don't know what I'll do if the mine goes ahead as my future fears and aspirations to retire on Wyuna would be lost. We were planning on spending more money on new house and stables which we wouldn't do.

I wanted to share with you some of my photo's over the 23 years of Wyuna and why it means so much to us as a beautiful, private and peaceful farm. A mine so close will ruin Wyuna and our community forever. I feel we have a legacy to give back better than we got it and a Bowden's mine would do the opposite. I seek your support to preserve our beauty, our land and local community for years ahead and to not let the planned mine go ahead.

Early morning view below across our paddocks, Lawson Creek. Our tranquility would be destroyed by noise and poisonous dust which would look directly towards the Bowden mine.

Red arrows indicate where the mine will be. Green arrows indicates Lawson Creek.



Our son keeping Wyuna maintained and well looked after. His life long dream and aspiration to inherit Wyuna would be lost if the potential poisonous mine went ahead.



The Lawson Creek below which borders and runs through our Wyuna property....fish and platipus live in the Lawson Creek would potentially be lost forever with the mine and tailings dam runoff....less than approx 500 metres away. Our livestock drink from the creek which could potentially be lead poisoned.

Red arrow indicates where the tailings dam will be approx 500 metres away.



Stock frequency agist or are owned by us on Wyuna depending on the water availability at the time. Bowden's mine could suck the water upstream and poison it downstream from Lawson's Creek leaving us with little to no water. I fear for the whole community that depend on Lawson Creek. The lead dust could poison us, our livestock and our community including the kids at the local Lue Public School.

Green arrows indicate Lawson Creek which would be poisoned by lead dust and run off.



More stock enjoying being fattened up on Wyuna. Bowden's mine would be just over the hill. Too close to Wyuna, our community and school.

Green arrows indicates Lawson Creek.



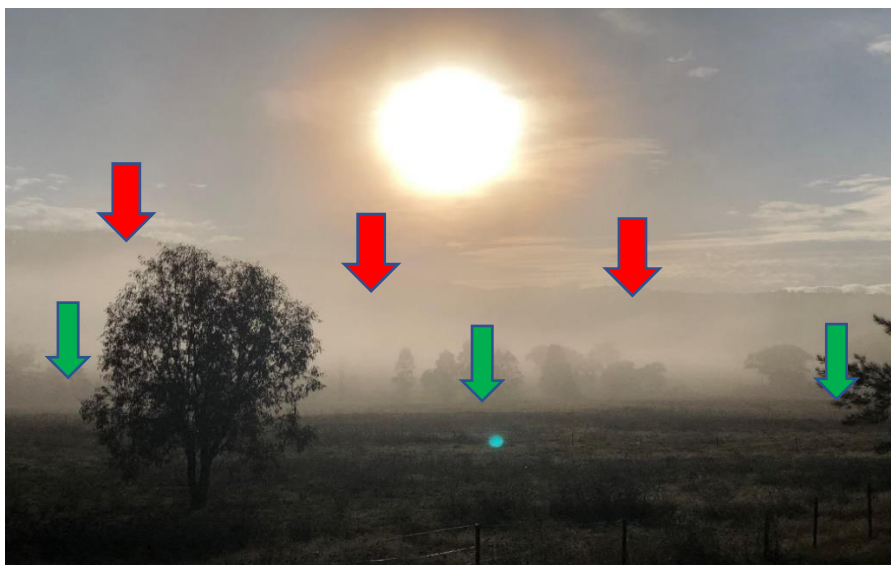
Another view from our front paddock across our small dam to our Lawson Creek boundary...beautiful, tranquil and peaceful would be lost forever. Lead dust could fall into the small dam and creek that feeds the livestock and pet horses. Poisonous lead dust falling and run off into Lawson Creek, our dam, paddocks and roof cutters that feed the water tank.

Red arrows indicate mine location...too close to Wyuna and Lawson Creek (Green arrows).



The peaceful Wyuna morning view looking over to where the mine would be located makes me feel anxious and worried. The noise from the trucks, blasting and mining would spoil this forever. Our life long dream to retire to Wyuna would be lost forever. Our long term goal of passing the farm down the family to our boys would also be destroyed forever.

Red arrows indicates mine location. Green arrows indicate Lawson Creek.

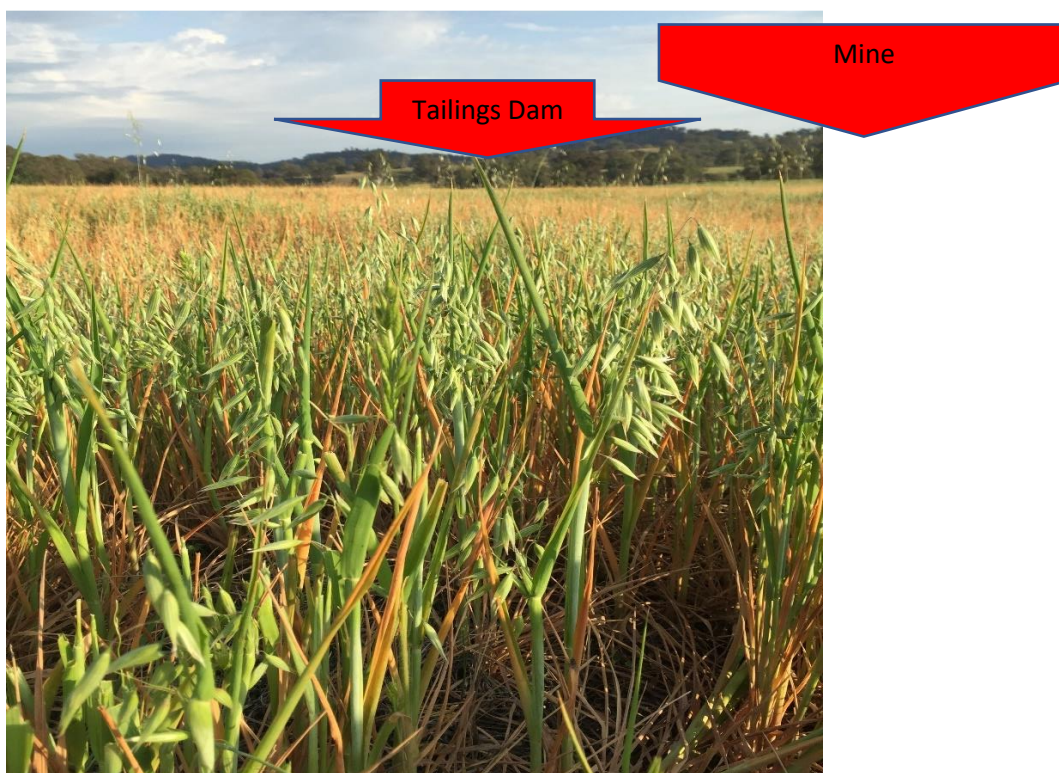


The many kangaroos that live and feel safe on Wyuna would be lost forever with the noise and potential poisonous lead dust and run off pollution. Our guests and our family love the 'roos' roaming free across Wyuna.



We wouldn't be able to grow oats anymore due to the fear of them being poisoned by the lead dust and spoilt water.

Red arrow indicates planned tailings dam (approx.) and planned mine (approx.)



Our 3 pet retired thoroughbreds who have many years left in them could potentially be poisoned by the lead dust in the air and the water.

Green arrows indicate Lawson Creek.



The beautiful and peaceful 'Wyuna' view from our balcony over our shed and tank, across Lawson Creek to our paddocks across the creek which would only be less than 500 metres from the tailing dam. The noise and potential dust in the air would not allow us to sit in peace on our balcony to enjoy the surrounds. Lost forever. **Red arrows indicating the planned tailings dam**, significantly too close to Lawson Creek and Wyuna.

Green arrows indicate Lawson Creek on Wyuna and only 200 metres from our home.



In summary, the approval of the Bowden's Silver (lead and zinc) mine application could be;

- 1) an environmental disaster for our family, Lue and surrounding areas
- 2) financial instability of Bowden's could leave an exposed open cut (potentially poisonous) mine to the elements with no accountability
- 3) a dangerous long-term health impact to our children, local and expanded communities and would change the area forever
- 4) A financial disaster for our family and other long-term Lue property owners

Is it worth the risk for a few unskilled jobs for a non-essential mineral v's the beauty, tranquility, lifestyle and livelihood we enjoy today? I don't think so.

My wife and I have a duty of care for visitors to our farm, especially children and the impact of lead exposure which is known to harm children's health.

I've always seen our legacy to leave our land in a better place than we received it, a Bowden's Lue silver mine would destroy this legacy. The risks are too high. Accordingly, I strongly believe and request the Bowden Silver mine be rejected.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip Cameron', with a stylized, cursive script.

Phillip Cameron