



19 May 2021

Mr Stephen O'Donoghue
Director Resource Assessments
Energy, Resources and Compliance
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
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Email to: stephen.odonoghue@planning.nsw.gov.au
rose-anne.hawkeswood@planning.nsw.gov.au

Attention: Rose-Anne Hawkeswood

Dear Stephen

Re: Bowdens Silver Project (SSD 5765) – Request for Amendment

I am writing to request the agreement of the Independent Planning Commission (or their delegate) to an amendment to the Bowdens Silver Project (the Project) in accordance with Clause 55(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*.

Bowdens Silver Pty Limited (Bowdens Silver) is seeking approval to develop and operate an open cut mine 2km to 3km northeast of Lue and 26km east of Mudgee to extract almost 30 million tonnes (Mt) of ore from which silver, zinc and lead would be extracted and despatched as concentrates.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project was publicly exhibited between 2 June and 27 July 2020. R.W. Corkery & Co has been commissioned by Bowdens Silver to compile a Submissions Report that responds to the government agency, organisational and public submissions received by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). The submission provided by TransGrid noted that it would not be relying on an assessment under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for the relocation of the existing 500kV transmission line to avoid proposed mining infrastructure as had been described in the EIS, and that this component of the Project would need to be included in the Part 4 application for the Bowdens Silver Project (SSD 5765).

It is therefore proposed that the Project be amended to incorporate the realignment of the 500kV transmission line. **Figure 1** displays the proposed Mine Site and location of the existing and proposed realigned 500kV transmission line. This realignment was comprehensively assessed within the EIS and incorporated in consultation with the local community. This included field survey for biodiversity and Aboriginal and historic heritage. The construction works required for the realignment have also been factored into assessment of the potential noise and air quality impacts of the Project. Therefore, the environmental impacts are well understood and have been assessed. In addition, the community is aware that this is a component of the Project. It is noted that

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the inclusion of the proposed realignment of the existing 500kV powerline in the application does not change the land on which the Project would be developed.

It is proposed that an Amendment Report would be prepared and submitted through the Planning Portal that includes the following at a minimum.

- a) Description of the proposed realignment of the 500kV transmission line.
- b) Description of the strategic context for the proposed realignment.
- c) Description of the statutory context for the proposed realignment.
- d) Assessment of the environmental impacts of the proposed realignment.
- e) Updated evaluation of the Project as a result of the amendment.

Preliminary review of the context for the realignment and potential environmental impacts of this component of the Project indicates there would be no change to the assessment conclusions presented in the EIS as a result of the amendment. This will be confirmed in the Amendment Report.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself or Anthony McClure (of Bowdens Silver) on this matter. We look forward to confirmation of agreement to proceed with the proposed amendment of the Project.

Yours sincerely



Nick Warren
Principal Environmental Consultant

Encls: Figure 1: Mine Site

Copy: Bowdens Silver

