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Submission

Objection to Bowdens Silver Amended Application SSD 5765

I am a resident of the Mudgee region, and I object to this project in its entirety. The Project presented a flawed EIS (see my prior Submission of Objection) and the Amended Application which includes responses to submissions has not addressed these matters. Further areas of concern have been identified and are discussed below.

The project and amendment should not be approved. The EIS was deficient, and so is the Amended Application.

The relocation of the 500kv powerline.

The realignment should have been included in the Project from the beginning. I am concerned and confused at an amendment being exhibited before the Project itself has been assessed by the Department.

The exact location of the realignment is still not known. This is unacceptable.

The removal of 12.6 ha of native vegetation will cause loss of canopy and a permanent change to the landscape, view and skyline. Half of this clearing will affect Box-Gum Woodland and cause fragmentation of this Threatened Ecological Community. There is insufficient data relating to tree hollows. This is critical habitat for many species, and the importance of the vegetation and the related ecology has been understated. This is unacceptable.

The ridgeline to be used for the powerline is a significant feature of the landscape. It can be seen from much of the district and is of great importance to the Wiradjuri people. The landscape is integral to their Traditional Pathways. A full heritage and occupation study must be undertaken with appropriate representation from the Aboriginal community. Removal of the vegetation would impact their connection to the land. We are diminished by such action.

The scenic landscape along Lue Road is enjoyed by locals, and the many tourists the region attracts. Local roads such as Bara Road, are often used by visitors wishing to enhance their rural experience. The mental health benefits of viewing and experiencing natural and rural areas are well known. The project and realignment of the powerline will destroy this benefit.

Lack of assessment of water pipeline

The proposed water pipeline from the Ulan coalfields to the project should also be fully assessed. This structure should have been included in the project from the beginning. I am concerned and confused that an amendment for the realignment of the powerline has been permitted, but impacts from the 58.5km pipeline have still not been fully investigated and reported. See my prior Submission of Objection.

Lack of Clarity

The Amendment Report is not structured clearly. Within the text there are multiple references given to various Appendices. It is unclear just where to find these documents. The Appendices are not listed in the Table of Contents, which lists the last section of the document as 'References page 32'. Beyond that section are 3 Appendices, totalling 126 pages, which readers must discover for themselves.

This lack of clarity is disquieting.

This unsustainable project with its critical air, water and health issues must be rejected. Please review my prior submission, as all points raised are still valid.

I ask that this project application and amendment be refused.

Sincerely,

R. Hadaway

Rosemary Hadaway 08/08/2021