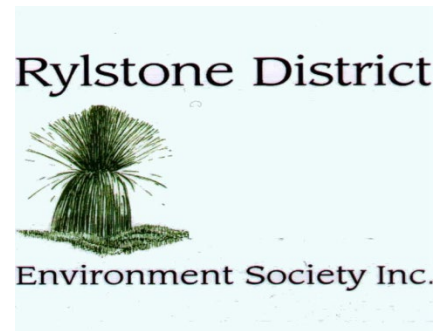


Major Projects,
NSW Department of Planning,
Industry and Environment
16 August 2021



Rylstone District Environment Society Inc.
PO Box 141 Rylstone NSW 2849

Bowdens Silver Amended Application SSD-5765

Dear Sir or Madam,

Rylstone District Environment Society Inc. objects to the Bowdens Project and Amendment to develop an open cut mine in the Lawson Creek valley, including a proposed realignment of a high-voltage powerline.

Our concerns are as follows:

- biodiversity impacts – the proposed powerline will require destruction of a large area of box–gum woodland, a threatened ecological community. The woodland provides significant tree canopy and tree hollows which are important habitat and support threatened species
- inadequate consideration of Indigenous cultural heritage – further consultation and survey is needed with local knowledge-holders to determine impacts on cultural landscapes, sites and artefacts; the area is known to contain rock shelters and artwork and this needs to be protected
- visual impact – the proposed realignment of the powerline to a section of ridgeline will have a negative visual impact on the surrounding village and rural landscape
- impacts on the amenity of surrounding areas including heavy vehicle traffic, dust and noise due to construction work
- confusion – the process of advertising this amendment is confusing because the project overall has not been assessed for development approval.

Overall, the proposed project poses unacceptable long-term environmental risks, and these have not been adequately addressed. Serious risks and shortcomings include:

- potential for acid mine drainage from the site, risking contamination of ground water and posing a permanent threat to the region's water supply
- the project's reliance on water transferred by pipeline from Ulan coal mine; the impact of this transfer has not been assessed.

Yours faithfully,

Jennifer More

On behalf of Rylstone District Environment Society Inc. (RDES)
PO Box 141 Rylstone 2849