



---

PO Box 528, PYRMONT NSW 2009  
ph 0428 817 282  
email [inlandriversnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:inlandriversnetwork@gmail.com)  
web [inlandriversnetwork.org](http://inlandriversnetwork.org)  
ABN 34 373 750 383

Rose-Anne Hawkswood  
Team Leader, Resource Assessments  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/9641>

Monday 16 August 2021

Dear Ms Hawkswood

**Submission of Objection:** Bowdens Silver Mine – Amendment (SSD-5765)

The Inland Rivers Network (“IRN”) is a coalition of environment groups and individuals that has been advocating for healthy rivers, wetlands and groundwater in the Murray-Darling Basin since 1991.

IRN lodged an objection to the Bowdens Silver Mine proposal in July 2020. We continue to uphold those objections and do not consider that they have been adequately addressed in the response to submissions report released in June 2021.

For example: The report responds to the IRN issue that many mines in Central West NSW ran out of water during the recent 2018-2020 severe drought (p 415) by stating that the proposed pipeline from Ulan coalmines will supply up to 5.5 ML/day.

IRN is not aware that this pipeline proposal is yet confirmed or that there is evidence that the Ulan coalmines will not be using all water produced on site during an intensive drought.

IRN does not consider that water supply for the proposed minerals mine at Lue has been resolved. There are major implications for impacts on water sources and other users, including the environment, in the Macquarie River catchment.

The project amendment is not supported in that there are no specific details about the re-alignment route for the 550kV transmission line or the impacts of the construction eg new access roads. There is no consideration of impacts of access tracks on streams or construction drilling into groundwater recharge areas.

All planning detail for the re-alignment of the 550kV transmission line has been left to consultation with the contractor (Amendment Report p 6).

IRN strongly objects to the proposed amendment because of the inadequate environmental impact assessment and lack of detail.

IRN maintains an overall objection to the Bowdens Silver Mine (SSD 5765) application because of the long term threats to water sources in the region.

Yours sincerely  
Brian Stevens  
Secretary