

BOWDENS SILVER PROJECT SSD-5765

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to thank the DPIE for accepting my submission.

My Name is Tom Combes. My family own's and operates the large 5000 hectare property "Lue Station". Lue Station bounds the Bowdens property to the West, Lue Station surrounds the village of Lue to the South and East. Lue Station is a thriving and diverse Agricultural and Tourism business. The Agricultural business operated by Lue Station Pty Ltd and TDP and SE Combes has been run by the same family at the same location for 98 years. Lue Station runs a pure Coffin Creek Blood Angus Cattle herd and a Havilah North Blood Merino Flock. The Agricultural arm of Lue Station employ's 4 Full time persons and many part time workers during seasonal operations such as Shearing, Crutching, Calf Marking, Sowing and Harvest.

The Tourism arm of Lue Station is the Louee Enduro and Motocross Complex. Louee is an off-road motorcycle facility that draws some 20,000 participants annually. Few single businesses in the Mid-Western Region could boast this number of visitors for primary purpose of travel. Louee Employs 4 Full time and 14 Permanent part employees. Louee Accommodates 76 guests on farm. Dozens of tourism service business benefit from the Louee Motocross business drawcard. The benefit to the local economy is significant. Louee MX has been operating for 28 years and is growing. I fear my home and business will be adversely impacted by the visual changes to the Lue landscape.

The amendment to the EIS for the movement of the 500KV transmission line significantly changes the projected impacts for me and I am opposed to the proposal.

The EIS was quite clear that there would be no visual impacts from the project. It seems this assessment is incorrect. I have attached a photo of "Bingman Hill". Bingman Hill is a large Hill of some 678 meters in height, it forms the northerly main view from my home, all my accommodation lodgings and most of the village of Lue.



The proposed design route for the realignment of the 500KV line is over Bingman Hill. The power line will be placed directly in my view and will form the skyline.

From my observation of the proposed plan, although some of the towers may be set back from the peak of the Bingman Hill ridge, the contour lines indicate that they will not be shielded from view. A 60m high tower will not be shielded by a 20-meter incline. The bulk of the tower and the lines will be visible and form the skyline. The route for the line will be cleared for 70 meters. From my assessment, many of the trees on top of Bingman Hill and the ridgeline that runs to its peak will be cleared. This is totally unacceptable.

I note the reason for the movement of the line to this route is financial. The proponent chose this route and amendment because they want to save money. What about the financial impact to me? My customers don't want to look at the power line, I don't want to look at the power line. I have invested significantly to my tourism business and my home, why should I have to have my property and business financially impacted and the jobs of my employees jeopardised because another business cannot afford to do better?

Additionally, there is no mention that line will be put back to its original route after the mineral has been mined. This is in keeping with the proponents "no rehabilitation" policy. Lue Station and the village of Lue will be affected by this disastrous project for ever. 15 years of mine life for an eternity of impact.

For lifestyle choices, Lue people fought long and hard in the 1980's not to have the 500kv line pass near Lue. In the end the route was agreed for the betterment of NSW but the line passed behind Bingman Hill so Lue residents were not adversely impacted. Yes, driving east from Lue you see the line, but most could not see it from their homes.

This amendment does nothing for the people of NSW nor is the movement towards Lue essential. It is a cost cutting measure that takes money from locals and gives it to shareholders. I find this unacceptable.

Further to this, consultation over the realignment of the 500KV line has been almost non-existent. I have never been approached by the Company about the realignment. I even sit on the CCC and have heard little about it. My friends and neighbours in Lue have heard nothing about it. If it not for the Lue Action Group nobody would know. If it was going to impact me and my business, why was I not consulted?

With regards to other impacts from the move of the 500kv line do not believe the tables of construction equipment are accurate. There are no concrete trucks for example. These towers will need concrete footings. If the vehicle tables are incorrect, the expected noise from the vehicles will have been assessed incorrectly and therefore the noise tables will be incorrect.

Further, a 7am to 8pm construction schedule is unacceptable. These towers will be built on the hill right above Lue. Right out in front of my home and business. This timetable for noise is not in keeping with the quiet and peaceful valley, nor it is co-operative for business that are offering accommodation for tourists. Again, why should my business suffer so Bowden's can cut costs? I see no compensation is being offered to effected business.

Another impact that I notice is absent is impacts on telecommunications. I could not find any studies on impacts to telecommunication signals. The towers will rise above 700m and will be right above the village of Lue. There has not been any assessment made on impacts to UHF, VHF, TV, Radio, Phone coverage etc. These communications form an integral part of Emergency Services in Lue. They are also important for normal living in Lue. Radio, TV and phone coverage is already quite poor.

There are also no assessments made about aircraft. Lue Station regularly uses aircraft for spreading of fertilizer. These aircraft must often travel in large circles of many kilometres to gain enough elevation to spread the fertilizer on the higher peaks of the property. The 500KV line presented a considerable concern to our business initially. There has been no assessment made on the impacts to neighbouring landholder fertilizer spreading programs as a result of the realignment.

In point, I do not believe the amendment has been thoroughly prepared. The proponent has not consulted with the community or local (Lue) business and therefore has put forward a poor document. I am unable to determine if this is incompetence or an unwillingness to do the right thing. Nevertheless, there is little evidence of co-operation with neighbouring business or residents to reduce the project impacts on the surrounding community.

Your Sincerely, Tom Combes. 16th August 2021.