

OBJECTION TO BOWDENS SILVER AMENDED APPLICATION SSD 5765

MARGARET CAMERON



Simulated image of realigned power lines (in red) from Wyuna, LUE

I am the owner of the rural holding noted as R87 in the Bowdens EIS, and otherwise known as WYUNA at Bara-Lue Road Lue. I have owned and loved this property since 1997.

I object to the Bowdens development application SSD5765 in its entirety and seek that it be refused for all of the reasons given in my earlier submission. Further I object to the Amended Application on the grounds of the damage done to my visual enjoyment of my property as a result of the realigned 500kw power lines which are now planned for the ridge line directly above my property. These have been simulated in the above image (based on information provided

in the Amendment report), and I encourage Bowdens to correct this image should they believe it to be inaccurate.

The community has not been properly consulted in regards to the realignment of the power lines, and Bowdens have either downplayed and or dismissed the true impact. Furthermore the Amended application has created more areas of concern due to its inclusion of unreferenced appendixes and a confusing updated description of the project.

RELOCATION OF 500KW POWER LINE AND VISUAL AMENITY

On the 10 May 2020 Bowdens wrote to me and advised that they had not confirmed where the realigned power lines would go. They then went on to say that regardless of the final option, a visibility assessment by Richard Lamb and Associates commented that:

‘as the power transmission line is largely in country with similar visual and physical characteristics to the existing line, that it would likely not cause any significant change to view compositions’

I note that they still maintain this position in the Amended application and furthermore they go on to state in the Submissions Report on page 240.

‘No part of the Project including the mine, the processing facilities, the tailings dam facilities or any other infrastructure would be able to be seen from Lue’.

The plan for the new power lines will bring them approximately 500metres closer to my property and the Lue village and they will be positioned on a ridge that sits above my property. We will go from seeing nothing to seeing something large and ugly, the composition made up of huge pylons and cleared land beneath them. I fail to see how this assessment could dismiss the issue as easily as it does, it is simply incorrect to do so. Also the claim that no infrastructure would be seen from Lue is incorrect as the realigned power lines will be visible from the village and from the popular tourist drive between Mudgee and Rylstone.

In the Rocky Hill case the application was refused because its benefits were outweighed by its “*disbenefits*” of visual, air quality and social impacts on existing uses in the vicinity of the mine, as well as the impacts of the green house gas emissions by the proposed mine.

Please refer to the judgement in *Gloucester Resources Limited v Minister for Planning* [2019] NSWLEC 7. His Honour concluded at paragraph 222, that:

“The visual impacts of the Project, both by themselves and by reason of the consequential adverse effects on existing, approved and likely future uses of land in the vicinity, and the social impacts that the visual impacts will likely cause, justify refusal of consent for the Project.”

In essence there is very little between this case and the plans that Bowdens have for Lue.

CONFUSION OVER UPDATED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

On the face of it, the Amended Application deals with a realignment of the 500kw power line, but it also contains a confusing and lengthy ‘UPDATED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT’ which piggy backs the Amendment in the form of an Appendix. This Appendix refers to and purports to replace the original Description of Project, there are several other appendix that are not listed in the Table of Contents. This appendix was found by accident.

RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

Bowdens’ response has been an exercise in ‘cherry picking’ extracts of objections raised in a manner that is disparaging and condescending towards the writers who oppose them. Whilst Bowdens claim to have a nurturing community attitude, their response to submissions seems to tell another story.

I ask that the project in its entirety be refused for for all the reasons put forward in my previous submission, as well as the reasons mentioned above.



Simulated view from Eastern boundary showing proposed power pylons in red.