

## **Reasons for Objections to Bowdens Lead Silver Zinc Project (SSD-5765)**

I oppose this project on many levels. Supplementary to my previous objection I think the Department of Planning need to consider very thoroughly the suitability of this company to be given permission to undertake this technically difficult mining project.

The negative impacts from mining Lead are well known and as this mine is proposed to be in close proximity to the Lue village it should not be granted approval. It is a nonsense to approve such a mine and then have to educate the population on how to safely live with lead.

The fact that we are again writing submissions due to Bowden's changing its plan on how to access water, the route of the transmission line and how it will deal with its toxic waste storage, indicates this is a company without the expertise or experience to enable it to safely undertake this project at this sensitive location.

The complexity of the Project Approvals Process and Planning Agreement requirements puts the general population at a great disadvantage as without expertise to understand the complexities involved most are unable to make an educated judgement as to the merits of this Project.

Bowdens have highlighted jobs creation and funds for NSW. The Mudgee Guardian article of Friday April 1 2022, Mine's Council Deal, stating that Bowdens Silver has partnered with the Mid-West Regional Council on a deal to bring millions to the council if approved, while correct is misleading as it doesn't go on to say that *as per Division 7.1 of part 7 of the EP&A Act* the proponent and council are obliged to enter into such an agreement.

This deliberately deceptive campaigning stating only the perceived advantages does not allow the community to fully understand the real risks incurred by granting approval to this proposal.

This Project if approved would create an Acid Mine Drainage risk that will be present for centuries. The proposed technical solutions to permanently encapsulate the acid forming waste rock and tailings are not proven at scale over long time periods. This lack of proven performance and the fact that many current and former base metals mine sites have serious AMD legacy issues must require the Department to refuse this Application. Lue is not the location for a "test" site.

I am also very concerned about the credibility of the Project's water balance. For the Proponent to be now saying "we can source all the water we need on-site" seems unbelievable after previously telling us they needed to construct a 60km long water line.

The Lue community has much to lose. The division created within communities when projects like this are seeking approval is always damaging. However, if approval is granted it highly possible that Lue may not survive. There are many examples of villages that have not survived these types of open cut mining leases, contrary to the proponent's predictions. There are also many examples where the first proposal is only the beginning of ongoing requests for further approvals. The nightmare situation for the local community is they must live fighting for their existing life and environment or simply give in and move away.

There is nothing I have seen in this proposal that gives me any sense that this mine in this location would do more good than harm. The Mid-West Regional Council has other strong sustainable industries and these must not be put at risk.

The risks are too great to give this company approval for this mine in this location.

Margot White