

## **Submission opposing the proposed Bowdens Silver Development Lue NSW**

I am a Lue property owner and live approximately 2.5km from the proposed pit site at Bowdens. I chose to live in this area for the quiet village life being closer to the natural world of God's creation. I have been involved in the village community in various ways and understand how much of a negative impact this proposal, if approved, will have on the community. Lue will become another Wollar, an abandoned former village that has been negatively affected by mining in the Mudgee area. Mining staff and management do not live anywhere near the mines they work in because they know how dusty, noisy and disruptive the operation can be - 24hrs a day, 52 weeks a year.

No matter what the proponent writes in any application anyone can see how massive an impact this mine will have on the surrounding landscape. The applicants claim an estimated 77 million tonnes of material will be moved. This is almost double the amount of earth that will be moved to create the Western Sydney Airport.

A tailings dam will one day fail, there is no way to prevent this from occurring other than to not use a tailings dam. Who will clean up the failure site when it does fail? How will downstream water users manage the damaging effect of contamination? Apparently, the applicants claim to know what will happen one hundred years from now. They claim it will take this long for the disused pit to fill with water. With this type of futuristic knowledge, they should be able to make the same claims about a lot of things, perhaps even when the tailings dam will fail.

I have great concerns regarding the dust that will be created by mining activities on the Bowdens site. No company can ever prevent dust from leaving the site. This last summer and series of droughts has proven we live in an arid landscape where water is not always available to suppress all the required areas in a mine site. Lead contaminated dust will leave the site by winds no matter what the applicants claim.

I also have concerns over property and lifestyle values being negatively and irreversibly impacted by an approved mine. Should property owners who have spent years of effort and thousands of dollars to make homes comfortable and properties presentable be financially worse off due to this development being approved? Will people rush in to invest in homes and property in the Lue area hoping to make a quick financial gain? I doubt that anyone will be able to sell their homes or property for reasonable market value if this mine is approved. The market value of the property in Lue will be negatively impacted for the next one hundred years. How do the current property owners receive compensation for devaluation and loss of lifestyle? Will the applicants offer compensation, or will it be the Government as this is a State Significant Development? How will property owners pursue financial compensation or will they be expected to make a significant contribution for the good of NSW?

Noise is an area of concern for me. Even the proponents claim the noise will increase. This is not acceptable to me and I also believe to the people who live in the area. Not only the fact that noise will increase but that it will occur for long periods most days of the week. I do not look forward to days being disrupted by explosive blasting, dust and associated machine works noise.

I wish to complain about the process to make a submission as it is tedious, frustrating and confusing. Having to create a Planning Portal Account, using email to confirm and then hoping the Major Projects External Portal functions correctly is quite a process. I have no idea how people without access to technology and the skills required to navigate this process are able to make a submission and have their opinions accepted by the decision makers. I also tried to navigate to the Department of Environment and Energy's website (via the link on the planning portal website) to find out more about this project as it relates to the EPBC Act. I was not able to make any connection to the Bowdens application at all, only Coronavirus, which is helpful during these times however not very useful as a tool to enquire into the process of making a submission. Is this a deliberately confusing system in a meaningless way to attempt to prevent people from making opposing submissions to our faithful Government?

I have high expectations that the people reading this submission ensure all the due diligence is completed and follow all the procedures, make every effort to be fair and just. While this may be listed a development of State significance by far the greatest significance will undoubtedly be the long term detriment to the community, environment and surrounding residents of the Lue village area. Please remember it will be the Lue community who will be living with this mine and all the detrimental effects it will undoubtedly have on the environment for over one hundred years.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission opposing this development.

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