

James Street

Green Creek Murrurundi NSW 2338

Applicant – Bowdens Silver Pty Limited

Application Number - SSD-5765

Application – Bowdens Silver Mine

**To Whom it may Concern**

I declare I have not made a reportable political donation in the previous 2 years.

I am a cattle farmer and entrepreneur from Murrurundi. I am aware the EIS of Bowdens Silver Mine is on exhibition at the moment and I wish to object to the proposal. I have friends who live near Lue on Lawson Creek and operate a family grazing business producing beef cattle and fine wool. These friends alerted me to issues regarding the mine.

Living in the Upper Hunter not far from the vast coal fields, I am acutely aware of the environmental problems mines can bring to a community.

Bowdens is mining lead silver and zinc from a sulphide metal deposit. When these ores are exposed to air and water in the mining process, bacteria accelerates the breaking down of sulphide minerals to sulphuric acid. This liberates heavy metals which when leached into streams, causes them to be highly acidic. This is Acid Mine Drainage AMD.

AMD at Bowdens threatens Lawson Creek and the Cudgegong River at Mudgee. Many of the people along these waterways would have their businesses destroyed as they rely on the creek for their stock and domestic water.

AMD will also contaminate the ground water affecting Lue residents as well as farm owners. The mine proposes to take 2000 megalitres of water each year, 800 megalitres of which will come from Lawson Creek valley. As it stands Lawson Creek goes back to holes in dry times.. Bowdens is proposing to take more water out of the creek than all current users combined. What is to become of the livestock which rely on the creek for their water? Not only does Bowdens risk contaminating the Creek with heavy metals and acid but it also will deplete the amount of water available. There simply is not enough water in the valley available to service a mine such as Bowdens.

Bowdens mine proposes to operate 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Blasting will be allowed six days a week. This is totally unacceptable as 192 people call Lue home and Lue is only two kms from the mine site. Lue will be uninhabitable.

Residents of nearby Wollar have had similar problems with the expansion of Peabody's mine, Wilpinjong. Many have been forced out by noise with little or no hope of compensation. Brown dirt in the gutters is now black from coal. Wollar is down to a couple of residents, the rest of the village is owned by the mine and many houses are derelict. Wollar has all but died. Is this to be the way of Lue?

I strongly oppose the Bowdens Mine as it will be a disaster for the wider Mudgee region and a catastrophe for the residents of Lue and its rural surrounds.

Yours Sincerely

James Street

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