

I live at Yamba in northern NSW but my cousin has a property 5kms downstream from the proposed Bowdens Silver mine at Lue. I would like to lodge my objection to this proposal.

My cousin and his wife's extended family farm 30,000 acres around the proposed mine and west of the mine site five kms downstream on the Lawson Creek towards Mudgee. They have a double frontage to the Creek and rely on it for all their stock and domestic water.

After examining the EIS I object strongly to the mine because;

Bowdens will be mining sulphide metals that when exposed to air and water will form sulphuric acid. Heavy metals and highly acidic water will almost certainly leach out of the tailings dam and waste rock emplacement despite Bowdens' assurance that this will all be contained on site.

Acid Mine Drainage from mining is a huge problem around the world. The United Nations declared it the second biggest problem with world faces after global warming – so huge is the problem. Bowdens is at severe risk of AMD. The operations of this mine and the nature of the minerals being produced mean that the ground water and Lawson Creek will be contaminated.

The tailings dam is designed to release 1.58 megalitres a day into Lawson Creek and into ground water. This tailings dam will be highly toxic, full of chemicals left over after mining as well as the tailings of crushed ore after processing. It is 117 ha. What will this do to our stock and domestic water? This cannot be allowed as this will be a problem forever.

There is not enough water in the Lawson Creek valley to operate a silver mine. Lawson Creek and local bores all but dried up completely during the drought which ended in March 2020. Without Lawson Creek, my cousin and his extended family will not have a business.

This mine will produce 95000 tonnes of lead and Lue lead is far more easily absorbed in to the body than lead mined at Mt Isa (it is more bioaccessible). This mine is only 1.9km from Lue and its primary school. There is no safe level of lead exposure especially for children. Lead affects many parts of the body.

We love to come and stay with my cousin. Mudgee Region is a beautiful rural area that is becoming a special tourist destination. It is valued for its beauty, wineries and restaurants, cafe culture, attractive historic towns and proximity to Sydney. A dirty lead mine right between Mudgee and Rylstone along a popular tourist route will destroy the many tourist business around Lue.

I strongly object to the Bowdens Mine proposal.