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Bowdens Silver Mine
DA Application No SSD- 5765
Location Approximately 2km north east of Lue
Applicant Bowdens Silver Pty Ltd
Council area - Mid-Western Regional

As a Mudgee resident since 1987, parent, grandmother and allied health professional, I strongly oppose the development of the Bowdens Silver Mine. The detrimental effect of this proposed Silver mine is far reaching in every aspect of our lives. I appreciate the opportunity to make a submission against the development of this Bowden Silver Mine.

An individual's health and wellbeing would be compromised on many levels. However of utmost concern is the preposterously high level of toxic chemical and in particular lead dust fallout from this proposed silver operation. From studies undertaken it appears that the lead byproduct from this Silver mine has a high level of bioaccessibility.

As an experienced allied health professional I am well aware of the adverse effects of lead toxicity on the wellbeing of all ages. In particular as a paediatric physiotherapist working with children with disability for over 30 years the well documented evidence linking lead poisoning with irreversible neurocognitive and behavioural disturbance in children is devastating to me. Such adverse effects are lifelong for not only the child but also for their families impacting all their life dimensions.

WHO states...*"Young children are particularly vulnerable to the toxic effects of lead and can suffer profound and permanent adverse health effects, particularly affecting the development of the brain and nervous system. Lead also causes long-term harm in adults, including increased risk of high blood pressure and kidney damage. Exposure of pregnant women to high levels of lead can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, premature birth and low birth weight. In particular lead can affect children's brain development resulting in reduced intelligence quotient (IQ), behavioural changes such as reduced attention span and increased antisocial behaviour, and reduced educational attainment. Lead exposure also causes anaemia, hypertension, renal impairment, immunotoxicity and toxicity to the reproductive organs. The neurological and behavioural effects of lead are believed to be irreversible."* World Health Organisation - Lead Poisoning and Health August 2019

Not to be ignored is the pollution of the surrounding locality by the mine site's continuous operational sound, night light, blasting vibration and excessive traffic flow. These factors are not acceptable and would result in mass evacuation and devaluation of the locality.

Community wellbeing and socioeconomic viability.

Local small villages within our region are prized gems preserving our district's historical past, providing a valued alternative and affordable lifestyle for many and also adding significant tourism wealth to our local economy. At the heart of these villages are our small bush schools such as Lue Public School- so integral to a town's survival. The risk of Lue Public School closure due to its close proximity to the proposed mine site with inevitable contamination of the byproducts of this silver mine is to be guarded against. The school's closure would destroy the social fabric of this quaint bush village and should be guarded against at all costs.

The environmental health of Lue and surrounding regions would be sabotaged by this silver mine.

Our country and community has just lived through the most severe year of drought and has been ravaged by fire. It is time to protect and restore our environment not to further destroy it. This Silver mine would contaminate and deplete our Mudgee river systems, Lawson Creek valley and watertables with disastrous consequence for residents, agricultural operations and tourism. If the proposed silver mine's tailing dam is compromised toxins leaked into Lawson creek would be devastating. Just this school holidays my grandchildren and I have marvelled at the opportunity to observe the incredible birdlife on Lawson Creek's Putta Bucca Wetlands. We have been spotting black swans nesting on the creek's islands. Koala and Regent Honeyeater habitats are located in this proposed Silver mine's location. It is imperative that we protect our region's flora, fauna and natural ecology and not allow Bowdens Silver Mine to destroy it

