

Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to state my objection to the proposed Bowdens Silver project (application number SSD-5765).

As a resident of Lue having had read the EIS released by SVL I am wishing to outline my major areas of concern with the proposed open cut mine:

1. **Mine proximity to village of Lue.** I oppose the Bowdens Silver mine project due to the very close distance of the mine site to the village of Lue. Two to three kilometres from the village school, shops and residences is too close – this site is not the right place for a mine, especially a silver mine with the by products threatening human health (lead as well as cyanide and arsenic from processing). I have 3 children under the age of 6, I do not want this mine so close to our home and school. There is no safe level of lead exposure, particularly for children who are still developing. Bowdens Silver is an open cut mine where lead dust will not be able to be safely contained to eliminate health risk to the people of Lue village and perhaps beyond this area.

There have been a lot of lessons learnt from the silver mine and lead exposure on residents at Broken Hill – we will not accept the same health risks with Bowdens Silver. Any amount of economic benefits in terms of employment for the area are not worth the risk to human health. We do not want a life where we have to constantly be afraid of lead toxicity and needing to do regular blood tests for lead monitoring. We should not have to worry about our children playing in the dirt outside in our backyard, or whether the vegetables we grow in our soil are contaminated with lead.

According to Professor Barry Nollar and Mark Taylor, lead pollution will affect the land and residents within a 5km radius of the proposed Bowdens Silver mine. It is their expert opinion that due to the nature of the open cut mine, this lead pollution cannot be safely contained. ***Therefore, if there is any way for the proposed Bowdens Silver mine to proceed, it must be under the condition that any residents or business operators within a 5km radius of the mine site must be given the option to be bought out by SVL (Silver Mines Limited) at minimum market value if they wish to leave the area.***

2. **Water use is too high and not adequately accounted for.** Only 15% of the proposed water use by the Bowden's mine is planned to be sourced via Ulan mine (which is not promised). The 1800 plus gigalitres used annually by the mine is an immense quantity which cannot be taken from the local area without great cost to farms and wildlife in this region and beyond. This is not a water-rich area and it is absurd to believe this water use proposed by Bowden's mine is fair to existing local users or even feasible. More must be done to ascertain the precise sourcing of this water use and how the impacts on local water will be managed by SVL.

3. **Concern for native wildlife.** Lue is home to a wide range of native fauna. We share our property with kangaroos, koalas, echidnas, wombats, platypus and a diverse species of birds. Bowdens Silver mine will adversely affect native fauna habitats and cause irreversible damage to their populations.

4. Bowdens Silver does not have intentions to rehabilitate the mine site upon completion of operations. It is unacceptable to pollute the land, waterways, destroy native fauna habitat, create hazards to human health and not have a plan in place to reduce impacts of this pollution for the time beyond the mine's proposed operations.

Please consider my points of opposition to the mine above when assessing the impact of this project. The long-term risks to health, water levels in the region, native fauna and people is too great and grossly outweigh any short-term benefit the mine would bring to the region through employment. The village of Lue is already home to wide range of economically prosperous businesses, tourism, farms and a wonderful school which are not compatible with the pollution produced by a silver mine.

Yours sincerely,

Resident of Lue.