

Lee Patsky
158 Bara-Lue Road
LUE NSW 2850

TO: Planning and Assessment

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Locked Bag 5022

Parramatta NSW 2124

RE: State Significant Development – Bowdens Silver SSD-5765

I Lee Patsky object to the above proposal and confirm that I have not made any reportable political donations in the previous two years. Below is an outline of my reasons for objection:

- **Summary** - The proposed mine site is simply too close to the Town of Lue and will have irreversible detrimental environmental and health impacts to the Township of Lue, the wider Mid-Western Region and their populations. I own property on the perimeter of the mine site closest to the proposed tailings dam. I moved into the area from Sydney in favour of a simpler more peaceful lifestyle for myself and family. Living next to an operational mine is totally at odds with my family's intended lifestyle.
- **Traffic Congestion** – Lue is a small village and the traffic movements proposed are too great for the Town and the surrounding roads and infrastructure. The associated increase in noise will be unacceptable.
- **Tailings Dam** – The proposed tailings dam is too close to our property and poses a threat to ground water supplies, impacting the potential operation of bores to sustain livestock. The proposed tailings dam structure is designed to withstand a one in one-hundred-year storm event which in the current environmental climate can be argued as more likely to occur than not, increasing risk of the dam failing or overflowing.
- **Acid Forming Rock** – The large amount of acid forming waste rock appears to pose a threat to the above and below ground water supplies given the method of construction/protection proposed. Further, the EIS has shortcomings in outlining how potential breaches of the protections would be managed.
- **Water Usage** – The mine proposes to source water from the Lawson Creek Valley with a significant reduction in the water table as a result. Given the current long-term environmental outlooks, a project using such vast amounts of water is arguably not in the interest of the broader agricultural region. Other industries and livelihoods will be under threat as a result of the mine's operation.

- **Noise Pollution** – With the mine operating 24 hours a day 7 days a week the Town will be adversely impacted by the ongoing audible operations of the mine. The EIS is prepared based on earlier sound modelling and its noted by consulting experts that the dBA readings used for the operating machinery modelling are below industry accepted/standard levels.
- **Additional Minerals** – The mine is purported to be a silver mine, though through extracting its silver stocks the mine inadvertently is also mining lead and zinc. The lead extraction providing a serious health concern for the community via water and air pollution.
- **Detraction of the Area** – The Lue town is a quaint piece of NSW history and should remain an icon of the Mid Western Region for locals and tourist to enjoy alike. The development of a mine site so close to the town can hardly be viewed as keeping with the heritage of the area. Moreover, the Mudgee region and its bustling tourist trade will be adversely impacted.
- **Post Mine Rehabilitation** – The mine site will forever damage the land and outlook of the area. The proposed rehabilitation falls short of expectation (large site void) and is arguably an unacceptable consequence of private mining profit.
- **Our Own Property** – On a personal level our own property will lose both financial and personal value. My wife and I were married on our property and are looking to hold it within our family for generations to come. This desire is dulled when the thought and impact of an operating mine over our back fence becomes a reality. Further, research shows that property values are at risk of declining when their leisure/recreational use is impacted through mining development.

Based on the above I believe there are enough areas for consideration for a rejection of the Bowdens Silver project. I look forward to following the progress of the EIS submission and evaluation by the Department.

Regards,

Lee Patsky.