

Online submission to NSW Government Major Projects via Planning Portal

Bowdens Silver Project – 9641 – development of an open cut silver mine and associated infrastructure.

My name is Bernadette Kerr. I live in Rylstone, near Lue and would like to take the opportunity to make a submission in respect of this project, currently under exhibition.

I oppose the Bowdens Silver Project because of the risks to:

- Biodiversity
- Water quality and sustainability (water sources, acid mine drainage management)
- Noise
- Health

My husband and I own a property in Coxs Creek. We were drawn to the area from Sydney because of its natural beauty and serenity - the quiet, very special environment that is filled with native flora and fauna.

As well as being a local resident, I have:

- a university degree in economics from the University of Sydney;
- worked with Infrastructure Australia to review the national significance, costs and benefits of major infrastructure projects across the country; and
- worked as a strategic consultant with major multinational engineering and design firm Parsons Brinckerhoff (now WSP).

In assessing infrastructure projects, calculating quantitative costs and benefits of a project is simpler than calculating externalities and qualitative impacts.

In my experience, social and environmental impacts, particularly those that are perceived to be a threat to a project's approval, are regularly grossly under-valued in reviewing the viability of an infrastructure project.

I respect that a silver mine at Lue would generate economic benefits and that the EIS presented has acknowledged and made efforts to address potential effects of the project.

However, based on the information available (including the EIS, expert reviews by those engaged by the Lue Action Group and wider reading), I believe that Bowdens has not provided sufficient evidence of the integrity of planned processes to manage the impact on health and the environment.

Further, I believe that Bowdens has failed to adequately measure the potential costs of the project, including:

- under-estimating the full cost of the impact to health and the environment, and
- under-estimating the cost of managing risks identified by the EIS.

I recommend:

1. Further detailed analysis is conducted by experts independent of Bowdens to address concerns raised by submissions and the experts engaged by the Lue Action Group.
2. Revising the business case for the project to address the full cost of addressing the risks to health and environment - both in the short- and long-term.

Yours sincerely

Bernadette Kerr, B.Ec., USyd