

Green Creek Murrurundi NSW 2338

26 July 2020

Applicant – Bowdens Silver Pty Limited

Application Number - SSD-5765

Application – Bowdens Silver Mine

I declare I have not made a reportable political donation in the previous 2 years.

I operate a beef cattle property outside Murrurundi in the Upper Hunter Valley. I have friends who are sheep and cattle farmers on the Lawson Creek downstream close to the proposed Bowdens Silver Mine. As I am aware my friends are extremely concerned at the prospect of this mine I wish to comment on the EIS currently on exhibition.

This mine will produce 95,000 tonnes of lead, a toxic metal which is particularly dangerous for children. This mine is two kilometres from the picturesque village of Lue and its 200 residents. Dust will inevitably cover the town rendering the residents without safe drinking water. Their tanks will be polluted by lead dust and the underground water will be depleted and more than likely contaminated with heavy metals with a high pH. The mine will have to provide the residents of Lue and surrounding rural properties (some 900 people) reticulated town water.

Acid Mine Drainage is a very real risk at Bowdens due to the nature of the sulphide minerals mined. Yet in the EIS Bowdens fails to discuss AMD. This failure is of great concern to me as AMD has been a pollution problem for thousands of years where metal sulphide deposits have been mined. Heavy metal pollution of river systems accompanies such mines for hundreds of years after the mine closes. Bowdens does not discuss AMD though data does emerge that indicates water pollution will occur that exceeds Australian guidelines. Lawson Creek is definitely at risk as is the Cudgegong and all water downstream for some distance.

We have all just been through a devastating drought that lasted for many years. Lawson Creek got back to a few holes. Where does Bowdens mine think they can get water to operate the mine as I understand they propose to use 2000 megalitres per annum of which 800 megalitres will come from the Lawson Creek valley. This is just not sustainable. Farmers along the Creek will not have a business.

I strongly oppose this mine as it will prove a disaster to our health and the health of our environment, not to mention the damage it will do to those who rely on the water of Lawson Creek and groundwater for their livelihood.

Sincerely

Mrs Felicity Street

