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### **Submission to EIS on Bowden Silver mine, Project SSD-5765**

**I oppose the Bowden Silver EIS** on the basis that I am a cattle farmer and tourism operator on a property in the Lue/Bara area.

My concerns are:

The surface water and underground water table being effected by such a large mine hole and the long term effects on all the aquifers as we are dependent on surface and underground water in this area.

The mine will produce 95000 tonnes of lead - a highly toxic mineral. There is no safe level to exposure of lead. Lead is a cumulative toxicant that affects multiple body systems. A deadly cyanide processing plant is proposed to operate on site. As a cattle farmer supplying to the Australian market, I am very concerned as if there is any trace of lead in their blood, they will be deemed unsalable.

A highly toxic large tailings dam will be constructed less than a kilometre from Lawson Creek and will be there FOREVER long after the mine has been abandoned - these dams have been known to fail. The result would be an environmental disaster for Lawson Creek which feeds into the Cudgegong River at Mudgee. It will pollute our water supply forever. Tailings dams regularly fail around the world, in fact there 23 tailings dams have failed in the world in the last five years including the dam at Newcrest Mining's Cadia Gold Mine near Orange NSW.

Tailings dams fail during significant rain events. We have rain records showing 225 mls overnight in February 2002 which caused major destruction in the Lawson Creek catchment. We regularly have large floods in Lawson Creek which dissipate very

quickly. Bowdens would be subject to the same variations and suffer the consequences of extreme rain events.

The mine will produce two massive dumps of 56 million tonnes of acid forming rock and tailings (crushed ore remnants post processing) above the water table and local creek catchments of Price Creek, Hawkins Creek and Lawson Creek. 26 million tonnes of rock is PAF potentially acid forming which will be stacked over the water catchment covering 77 hectares. These waste dumps will most likely leach into our water table and the surrounding catchment.

Acid mine drainage from heavy metal mines is one of the great 'forgotten' issues in terms of environmental impact, even though it has been with society for thousands of years. The pollution from such mines can continue for hundreds of years after a mine is closed (where society bears the long-term burden of poisoned rivers).

227000 tonnes of ore will be trucked along the winding and narrow Lue Road through Mudgee town ship. Our local road is already very busy and quite dangerous as people drive too fast for the road's conditions. Many people from Rylstone use Lue Road to commute to Mudgee and beyond for work. Currently B Double Trucks are restricted yet I believe that ore will be moved by B Double Trucks. The road must be upgraded significantly should the mine go ahead.

This will have a huge effect on the tourism industry in Mudgee if these B Double trucks continuously travel through Mudgee.

The mine will operate 24 hours a day seven days a week with blasting allowed 6 days a week - this is totally unacceptable and reasonable for the residents of Lue and Bara.

Bowdens does not offer a suitable plan for rehabilitation of the mine. When the mine closes the tailings dam and all the PAF will remain forever. Where is the maintenance plan for maintaining the tailings dam? This would be essential as feral animals such as wombats are very likely to destroy the proposed lining. Who will be overseeing this after the mine ceases to exist?

This project, if it goes ahead, will have a massive effect on agriculture, viticulture and tourism all of which are essential for the survival of the Mudgee region, both on financial and health levels.

**I believe this project should be rejected.** Thank you for taking my submission into consideration.