

Objection to the Bowden Silver Mine

I am objecting to the Bowden Silver Mine on many grounds.

I live in Mudgee and have friends who boarder the mine boundary.

I have previously (not currently as its winter) studied and practiced Tai Chi (Qi Gong) in the Lue park and learnt the art of Bonsai in Lue.

The mine is too close to Lue public school and other facilities and residences. It will have a detrimental effect on the locals in the area and visitors alike.

I do not believe that the proponent has adequately addressed the following issues.

1. I believe that there is the possibility of lead being mined in addition to the Silver or at least as a by product of the silver mining. I am opposed to any lead being mined close to any ground water or near school children or people with families living in the area.

I refer you to the following paragraph from page 7-14 of the Executive Summary

All these exposures have been evaluated at all privately-owned residences within 4km to 6km of the Mine Site as well as other key locations such as Lue Public School. Intakes of metals by all members of the public are dominated by existing exposures to metals in the environment. Dust emissions from the Project would make a negligible contribution to these intakes and there would be no Project-related exposures that are considered to result in any health impacts for any member of the community.

I do not believe that the Human Health Assessment Risk could POSSIBLY find that the residences and school 4-6km away from an open cut mine would not experience any extra dust or contaminates in the air. It is just inconceivable.

It goes on to state that there will be noise pollution but makes no attempt to quantify that or explain the impact it may have on the young children in the area whose development will be particularly susceptible to it. Even adults living within the range of blasting would have difficulty with surviving it. Its just not appropriate to come up with a plan after consent has been given.

2. I also understand that a comprehensive Aboriginal study has not been conducted of the area. This should be done before any consent should be considered. When we planted grapes on land in Mudgee that had been privately owned by a farmer, we still had a complete assessment done of our 85 acres prior to any work being approved.
3. Also there has not been a comprehensive Koala habitat study. After the devastating fires of 2019/2020 we have lost so much habitat for the Koala that we can ill afford to endanger any more of this great Australian symbol. No approval should be considered without a full Koala study and plan.
4. Acid Mine Drainage does not seem to have been addressed. On this point alone the project should be rejected.

5. Insurance. It is becoming increasingly evident that landholders and especially food producers that live adjacent and downstream of mining operations are not covered by environmental damage insurance. If such insurance is available, it is expensive and restrictive. There is no adequate insurance available to the Government who leaves itself and the taxpayers exposed to risk. I certainly hope the EPA will be determining a security deposit to hold as the lack of detail and planning of the EIS indicates that there may be a lack of funding on the part of the proponent.

The Bowden Silver mine EIS was at best adequate and that is being charitable, in fact I would go as far as to say that the EIS is "lying by omission". There is no place in Australia today for ill informed and poorly researched EIS's. The whole point of them is to be transparent to the risks associated with the development proposal and adequately address those issues so that all stakeholders have trust in the process and the proponent.

I am requesting that you do not approve the Bowden Silver Mine.

Thank You.