

Director, Resource Assessments  
Planning and Assessment  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Date 20/07/2020

Name ( Withheld )

Applicant – Bowdens Silver Pty Limited

Application Number - SSD-5765

Application – Bowdens Silver Mine

I STRONGLY OBJECT to the Bowdens Silver Mine proposal.

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

Signature - .....  25/7/2020.

There are many reasons for our total objection to this proposal.

We live in the Upper Hunter which is close to the proposed area as the crow flies. We own land where we run commercial and stud angus beef and grow crops which are sold to feed the people of Australia.

We have both family and business connections with the Mudgee region that go back generations. We still have relations living in Mudgee and the surrounding district. We sell our livestock there.

The prediction is that water levels in Lawson Creek will drop by one metre rendering much of the Creek dry for all other users. Bowdens Mine will use more water from the Lawson Creek catchment than all current users combined. Recent droughts have reminded us the preciousness of our water resource. Ground water levels on the mine site will drop by 25 metres and the open cut pit will continue to draw on ground water for up to 100 years after the mine has been abandoned. Long term permanent damage for short term gains.

The water systems will be forever affected in a negative way from the tailings dam that is planned to be near the Lawson Ck. One big rain event will be enough for an environmental disaster. Tailings dams that have failed are well documented, including the Cadia Gold mine near Orange NSW. The deadly cyanide processing plant that is proposed to operate on site will only add to the damage and again forever scar the environment. Once damaged there is no way to restore the environment. It is well known that where mines 'restore' the environment it is never in any way at all as it was.

*When silver is mined it produces lead which is highly toxic. Lead toxicity damages health, especially the development of brains in children. Families live in the district where their children go to school.*

These children will grow up in need of extra health support, in need of extra support while they attend school and will go onto leading adult lives that would require financial, medical and living support. Who will pay for that? I doubt the mining company will. No one should take on an activity that they know would harm the health of people especially vulnerable children. So aside from the known dangers of mining silver to the immediate people and the environment there will be lifelong detriment to those people who live nearby and who work on the site and potentially taking home contaminants to their home. All for the short-term gain of a company who would not be living nearby or putting their own families and homes at risk.

Irreversible damage to the environment, to the people who live there and the township and the businesses. Short term gains to an unaccountable mining company at the expense of long-term irreversible detriment to the area, the surrounding environment, and to the rural communities.

This mine is totally unacceptable.

Thank you for giving this submission serious consideration.