

I am a grain farmer west of Moree. I visit the Mudgee region regularly as I have two lots of very close friends living there. One of those friends farms on the Lawson Creek five kms downstream from Lue. I am aware that Bowdens propose a zinc, lead and silver mine and that the EIS is currently on exhibition.

I strongly oppose this mine

Mudgee and Lue are picturesque and highly valued as a tourist destination. A polluting lead mine would destroy their beauty and attractiveness.

- Bowdens will extract 95000 tonnes of lead. Lead is highly toxic and Lue is only two kms from the mine. Lue lead will be more easily absorbed than Mt Isa lead as it is more bioaccessible. There is no safe level of exposure to lead particularly for children and this mine will be only 2kms from the pit. This is totally unacceptable for the residents of Lue. Families will have to move and the house will be worth less.
- Ground water and surface water will be depleted and polluted with heavy metal and highly acidic waste for all future generations even though the mine will operate for only 16 years.
- There is insufficient water in the valley to operate this mine.
- This mine is not economic – the silver price is too low to make this mine viable. The operator of this mine will be forced to cut corners in order to cut costs.
- Silver Mines Ltd is inexperienced at operating mines.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Bowdens EIS.