

Re: Bowdens Silver

Application number SSD-5765

Dear Sir/Madam

As a Lue Village resident I wish to state my OBJECTION to the Silver Mines Ltd (SVL) proposed open cut silver mine. I have listed below my main areas of concern regarding the proposal:

**Experts Opinion on Lead dust to this site in question**

*“Professor Barry Nollar and Mark Taylor. The evidence overwhelmingly indicated that residents and environment within 2km of the Mine would almost certainly be affected and it was probable that residents and the environment out to 5km from the mine would be affected by Lead. The effect would be from dust blowing from the site. Due to the nature of the open cut mine, there would be no possible way to prevent the lead dust leaving the site and effecting the surrounding community and environment.”*

**Threat to health & Children**

Our home in particular is under the 2km distance from the proposed site for the tailings dam and the open cut site. It is far too close to our property & the village and such a proposal should never have been in consideration to begin with.

Having a project such as silver/lead/zinc mining so close to residential properties and Lue village is simply dangerous. It is too close, there is substantial risk of error & accidents during mine construction, operation and beyond the lifetime of the mine; leading to adverse health effects and contamination of the land and water in the region.

We are a young family with 3 very young children- a 6, 4 and 1 year old.

Any percentage of lead dust that can't be controlled is dangerous to the health of anyone and more so to the health of children.

Lue Village, with a primary Public school about 2km from the mine proposal site adding greater weight to the risk of lead exposure to children.

This is unacceptable.

### **Lead Contamination & Added Risk with Weather**

I would like to share my experience and observations of how the wind moves in our property in Lue. The contoured hills act as a wind channel & these geographical nuances only amplify the potency of ill weather conditions at certain periods in Lue.

The dust from the open cut mine will be collected from the wind & settle on Lue's hills, contours & the several topographical low points - just as the fog settles on most winter mornings, or that we have frequently witnessed in dust-storms in last few years.

We also had a mini cyclone (Photos attached ) that gave the Lue village a beating in Jan 2019, causing much havoc & damage to properties. The cyclone was isolated only to Lue, highlighting the contours abilities of the area to capture wind channels making elements more potent.

Should a mine, such as the proposed, been active at the time the whole area would have been under large amounts lead particle dust from the open cut site or toxins from the waste tailings dam over the hill; all ending up on the surrounding land & waterways. Properties would be powdered with lead and our roofing (which is vital for locals for collecting water for drinking and household use).

Any rain collected will also have risks of lead contamination, giving next to no chance for uncontaminated water supply for our families & children.

This is unacceptable.

### **Reduction to water tables**

Water is more precious than ever before with rising temperatures and less frequent rain predicted in the future.

SVL are proposing to use enormous quantities of water (2000 MEGALITRES annually) directly pumped out of the ground of Lue with a fraction of that portion (15%) coming from ULAN mine - This important detail not advertised by SVL to interviewers, I might add.

This pressure will cause our water table to shrink & from Lawson creek, already just barely trickling, will be affected.

Surrounding wells, bores & spring fed dams in the community will be at high risk of drying up and making our already low supply worse.....

The knock on effects of this result will be disastrous to not only the residents but wildlife, trees to the area & the destruction of ecosystems.

### **Wildlife habitats under threat**

At the base level, this mine will require clearing of many trees & area that is providing homes for much wildlife, which in turn will affect native habitats. Lue is home to much wildlife; Kangaroos, Wombats, Possums, Echidnas, Platypus, Koala, a plethora of bird species etc....

Toxic chemicals for rock washing, blasting, gases and associated pollution from the proposed silver mine are all extremely hazardous to wildlife & will certainly lead to destruction of local ecosystems on top of the reduction of water mentioned above.

### **Impact to local community**

I also operate a business in Lue which provide a primary income for our family.

A shop operating in the village, we are reliant on tourists & pupils wishing to study with me as well as a horticultural operation on our property.

Seeing the effects to Wollar mine had and to the Wollar community, we do not wish to become a ghost community in Wollar's footsteps. A silver mine releasing lead to the surrounds of Lue, adding noise, adverse effects of excess water use will soon be evident & will all affect tourists seeing Lue as a place to visit. Businesses and properties will be compromised, Lue will cease to be seen as a place of beauty and point of interest but an area to simply stay away from due to the mine and its activities.

Toxins will build up in our soils, inhibiting our farmers' ability to produce. Over time this will eventuate the closure of Lue Public school, as parents will not want their children at risk of any Lead activities ~ Our families 3 children included.

Businesses in Lue and the area affected currently include; A popular Motor cross track, Pottery store, Bonsai school/nursery, Farm stays, various accommodation, prized Olive Oil Press, primary farming & livestock - All will all be detrimentally physically and economically impacted.

### **Soil impacts**

Lead & chemical washing activities from the dust buildup will certainly negatively influence nearby soils of the area.

From an ecologist & microbial background, I can assure that lead is notorious for killing natural bacteria and its primary vital process in healthy soils.

Soil organic matter will result in a downward trend, while Potassium and Nitrogen will accumulate. Soil Urease and Protease activity required for the stabilisation and micro-bacteria in soils will be compromised with greater heavy metal pollution & overall the soil microbial biodiversity will certainly decline.

This in turn, will lead to a downhill spiral over time for the health of soils, farming on arable lands & certainly affecting livestock; all inhibiting our farmers' ability to produce in the area.

Its impact will further cause decline to wildlife. Native plants and trees in the area will certainly weaken, making them more prone to pests, disease and less resilient to elements of weather leading them to deteriorate.

### **Negative CO2 emissions**

SVL does not have access to moving their extractions out of the region via Rail transportation.

And are proposing rather, to use large trucks for haulage through Lue to Mudgee & onwards. That is a lot of fuels and carbon, adding to more negatives added to CO2 our annual emissions. In such a time when we have to be reducing carbon emissions in the face of global climate change with climate extremes a serious threat.

Having this added pressure is not in the interest to be seen in assisting the crisis we will all be facing ahead.

### **Experience in such a project?**

Having this mine in such close proximity to our village is not only a neglect to the safety for the people of Lue. Adding, SVL have NEVER operated a mining project before, let alone a Silver/Lead/Zinc mine with its well known dangerous repercussions. Accidents will, and do happen dare the risks be taken?

### **Mental impact**

The township will live in constant fear for their health and future development & health to our children. Much needs to be said of longterm mental health effects.

I have seen the stress and toll 1st hand that the idea of such a proposal has caused to the people of Lue.

Putting up, fed up and simply exhausted with this proposition now for over 30 years via several companies. Each time, threatening our community, livelihood and primary life assets -our homes.

It is not acceptable to have the people of the region under such continual unease.

The people of LUE deserve closure of this proposition and expunging such applications in the future to the posterity of the region . This to be set at a priority.

Basically, the only benefit for such a mine to the region is for the short term employment. Yet the environmental impact; knock-on effects of such a decision will far outweigh anything short term employment can give.

Should this proposal somehow get approved, if SVL wish to risk such an activity such as the proposed immediately beside a residential town full of families. All within the 5km threshold should have the option to be bought out from the company at current (pre mine approval) property market estate values.

In closing this proposal needs to be rejected for the following ;

- \*Threat of Toxic dust
- \*Threat to Loss of water
- \*Threat to Damage & toxicity of soils
- \*Noise pollution & Light pollution
- \*Threat to Tourism damage to the area Business's in the township
- \*Damage to the site itself- No attempt to repair open pit will be done
- \*Threat of Toxic waste dumped in the Lue Hills via Tailings damn and waste toxic rock pits. And left there permanantly future leechings **will happen**
- \*Threat to habitats & wildlife & ecosystems

- \*Threat to Loss of school over time to the town
- \*Loss of Realestate value -our homes our assets.

I have faith that common sense and the protection of the health of citizens will take full priority here  
& this proposal get its rightful place

-At Refusal

Regards

Lue Villiage Resident