

Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

SUBMISSION

Date: 27 July 2020

Applicant – Bowdens Silver Pty Limited
Application Number – SSD-5765
Application – Bowdens Silver Mine

I object to the BOWDENS SILVER MINE proposal.

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

I would like my submission to be anonymous.

I request that you please withhold my name, do not publish my name on your website and Remove my name from any documents that are already published on your website.

The reasons for objecting to this proposal are:

1. Health impacts
2. Water impacts
3. Environmental impact, and
4. Community impact

Health impacts

I am concerned about the future of the village of Lue which has 98 houses, 192 residents and a thriving Primary School. It is the 5th largest town in the Mid-Western Regional Council.

I understand that the mine will produce thousands of tonnes of lead, which is extremely poisonous to humans and animals when disturbed and processed. This will expose the community to a high risk of negative health impacts from lead in the air we breathe and the water we drink, grow food and maintain livestock with.

I am particularly concerned about the impact this could have on young children within the community and the impact that lead contamination could have on their health and development.

Water

My Family live at Havilah, 8km from Lue and the proposed mine. They have occupied Havilah for six generations and their livelihood comes from farming sheep and cattle. The property borders Lawson Creek, which is vital for stock and domestic uses. I am are very passionate and very concerned about the consequences this could have to our livelihoods, the community and the fact that this could wipe out a number of large farming families, particularly in circumstances where we, as Australians, are trying to keep farming families in business and not just for corporates. To allow something so catastrophic to impact the land is abhorrent. There are many farms and families that rely on Lawsons creek for their livelihood, and my family's farm is one of them.

I understand that the mine proposes to be take water from the Lawson Creek Valley and I am concerned that this will put severe stress on Lawsons Creeks and the families and farms that currently rely on Lawsons Creek as a water source. Bowdens has acknowledged that the mine will reduce the water table by 25 meters and the proposed tailings dam will adversely impact surface water flows. Since a child, I have learnt that taking water from the water table is significantly detrimental to the land.

Damage to the Environment

I understand that the Bowdens proposal will include an enormous tailings dam, to sit above the water table at the headwaters of the Lawsons Creek (which flows into the Cudgegong River at Mudgee). This tailings dam will not only adversely impact surface water flows into the Lawsons Creek, but will house thousands of tonnes of dangerous heavy metals and chemicals, including lead, arsenic, zinc, cyanide and cadmium. I understand, these dangerous chemicals aren't found in other tailings dams (like relatively safe tailings dams used in coal mining).

These dangerous heavy metals and chemicals will sit in the tailings dam, upstream of Mudgee, and forever. When mining ends, they are unable to be moved. That means that when mining operations have finished, Mudgee will be left with a toxic, dangerous legacy for generations to come.

Community Impact

I am concerned that the proposed mine will have a serious detrimental impact on the community of Lue due to the concerns listed above and would most likely wipe out the village of Lue. I am also concerned this may have an adverse impact on the wider communities of Mudgee and Rylstone and the potential to damage the thriving tourism industries of those towns. The benefits of this project do not outweigh the long-lasting adverse impacts on the community. Particularly, in these difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic, local communities need the assistance of the government to keep them going. To permit a silver mine along the lines of what is proposed by the Bowdens Mine might create a few jobs, but it will ruin the livelihood of people who have been farming in the area for over 100 years. We cannot afford to put these people out of business nor ruin the environment for short term gains.

I am asking you to please reject the application for a mining licence by Bowdens Silver Pty/Ltd.