

Submission to Planning Portal NSW Government

“BOWDEN’S SILVER PROJECT”

Major Project 9641.

Submission from Russell and Stephanie PRICHARD

617 Lue Rd

Mount Knowles (Mudgee) 2850

New South Wales.

This submission is an objection to the mining operations being approved.

Whilst job creation in the area is essential for the economics of the all surrounding towns it **MUST NOT** be at the expense of the environment or put population (adults children babies and livelihoods at risk or in jeopardy.

Our property borders Lue Rd at Mount Knowles and Lawson Creek runs through our property.

This 1400 acre property has been in our family for the past 4 generations as a working wool producing enterprise and now as a prime lamb producing enterprise. This enterprise is our primary source of income and is, by succession, to be handed in a healthy and clean state to our children.

**Bowdens Silver Project (Mine) appears misleading and a misnomer as the principal mining operation production appears to be LEAD and ZINC with silver as a bonus.**

Lead and zinc are heavy metals and the by-products of mining operations and ore extraction and crushing (and especially proposed **CYANIDE** processing plant) are all toxic to humans and livestock as well as fauna and aquatic species. The dust created from mining operations and transport of the ore containing these metals is toxic and can travel for kilometres on prevailing winds let alone onto properties and into waterways adjoining the mine site and transport routes.

Any breakdown in control measures or storage of potentially toxic or hazardous material or waste will be catastrophic for water catchment for Lawson Creek and ground water.

The water from Lawson Creek is use to irrigate our pastures and to provide drinking water for our livestock (sheep and lambs).

Any contamination of our pastures by dust from transport vehicles (Trucks, B doubles or associated mine vehicles) wheels, chassis or bodies travelling along Lue Rd let alone from the ore loads carried and any contamination of surface water flowing into Lawson Creek or in Lawson Creek or groundwater by mining operations or reduction in flows of Lawson Creek will irreparably destroy our farming enterprise. This consideration must be from the

start of mine construction, throughout its operation and after mine operations cease at the end of the mines life and for who knows how many years after mining operations cease.

Once pasture and water sources are contaminated livestock which feed on those pastures and drink from those water sources are contaminated and are not saleable....the meat carcasses are condemned at slaughter. **Our land is useless. Our farming enterprise is destroyed. We lose our income.**

Remediation is not an option or an alternative as heavy metal pollution can remain in soil and waterways for years and years and may not be successful at returning the waterway and land to its original uncontaminated condition.

Once the surface water runoff collection for Lawson Creek and ground water is depleted it can take years to be replaced if at all given the meteorological predictions that Australia will be subject to a hotter and drier climate in the years to come.

Lawson Creek, as a culmination of the drought at end of 2019, for the first time at least in the past 2 generations dried up and ceased to flow due to the drought conditions until rain in the first part 2020.

If Bowdens "Silver" Mine operations draws water from Lawson Creek and ground water from surrounds Lawson Creek will cease to exist and bores will dry up, as they did in the drought, as a water source for primary producers and farmers and vineyards.

The pollution concerns are real not just possibilities and there is appears no consideration of the effect of this on the local environment.

Lue Rd is a narrow and winding road trafficked regularly by residents school buses and local transport. The road is not constructed for regular and constant use by heavy transport vehicles such as B-Double haulage vehicles travelling both west and east as proposed by Bowdens Silver Mine. Road safety will be at risk if heavy vehicles are permitted to regularly use Lue Rd. The pollution by diesel fumes emitted by these trucks and the constant noise (especially engine noise as trucks use their compression braking) is another pollution factor which will impact negatively on our human and livestock health not to mention the effect on the health of residents (families) and in the Mudgee town streets.

Heavy vehicles using the designated streets in Mudgee pose a road safety risk for all residents and families living in those streets.

Mining Journal.com reported according to Anthony McClure of Silver Mines Ltd "There is a lot more work to be done but it looks like a silver mine could be just the kicking off point for this district". Alluding to much larger mining developments possibly for copper and gold about 25km northwest of Mudgee and others east of Mudgee.

Russell and Stephanie Prichard 26 July 2020.