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Bowdens Silver Mine / Bowdens Silver Pty Limited

Project: SSD-5765

I OBJECT to the Bowdens Silver Mine proposal.

My name is Ben Nagel, and I'm interested in the proposed Bowden's mine not only because of the environmental impact it will have, but also due to it's close proximity to my family home and the townships of not only Lue but Mudgee, Rylstone, Kandos and the surrounds.

Environmental

- The mine is said to produce 95,000 tonnes of lead – a highly toxic mineral with no safe levels of exposure.
- The mine is said to require more water from the Lawson Creek catchment than all current users combined.
- Bowdens Mine will use more water from the Lawson Creek catchment than all current users combined. Even with this, the mine cannot source enough water locally so is relying on water from Ulan and/or Moolarben mines via a 58km pipeline through mostly private farmland. This supply is yet to be guaranteed, and won't be viable when in times of drought when Ulan/Moolarben won't be able to afford to share any of their excess water.
- Ground water levels on the mine site will drop by an estimated 25 metres. The open cut pit will continue to draw on ground water for up to a century after the mine has been abandoned.
- A highly toxic large tailings dam will be constructed less than a kilometre from Lawson Creek and will be there well after the mine has been abandoned. It will pollute our water supply forever. Tailings dams regularly fail around the world (23 in the past five years), one of which was not far away at Newcrest Mining's Cadia Gold Mine near Orange NSW. The result would be an environmental disaster for Lawson Creek which feeds into the Cudgegong River at Mudgee. Tailings dams fail during significant rain events. There are regularly large floods in Lawson Creek which dissipate very quickly. Bowdens would be subject to the same variations and suffer the consequences of extreme rain events particularly if no second tailings dam was in place as a safety back up – which is currently not proposed.

- Bowdens does not offer a suitable plan for rehabilitation of the mine. When the mine closes the tailings dam and all the other environmental damage will remain forever.
- The mine will produce two massive dumps of 56 million tonnes of acid forming rock and tailings (crushed ore remnants post processing) above the water table and local creek catchments of Price Creek, Hawkins Creek and Lawson Creek. 26 million tonnes of rock is PAF (potentially acid forming) which will be stacked over the water catchment covering 77 hectares. These waste dumps will most likely leach into our water table and the surrounding catchment.
- The mine covers areas habituated by koalas and Regent Honeyeater. It is also has Grey Box Grassy Woodland which will be destroyed by the mine.

Health

- A cyanide processing plant will operate on site. Need I say more.
- As mentioned above, the mine is said to produce 95,000 tonnes of lead – a highly toxic mineral with no safe levels of exposure. Particularly for school children studying only 2km away.

Economic

- The maths just doesn't add up. Assumed silver price in the EIS is US\$20.91/oz. However, over the past 6 years the price of silver has never reached this level and if production costs increase, the mine will be even less viable. A financially unviable mine represents an even greater threat as they may look for ways to cut corners which could affect safety.

Tourism/Livelihood

- It's proposed that the mine will be in operation 24/7 with little to no downtime, and with mine blasting allowed for six of those days. Who in their right mind would be able to live nearby, or want to visit a region with that going on? A huge proportion of Mudgee regions economic livelihood comes from tourism – to lose that would be the end of the area.
- The already poorly maintained narrow road between Lue and Mudgee is now set to have 227,000 tonnes of ore trucked along it. This poses as a safety threat for locals and tourists in the area who use that road every day. Bowden's will need to include a plan / funding if they want any chance of safely using this road.

I OBJECT to the Bowden's Silver Mine Proposal (Project SSD-5765) and believe the Project should be REJECTED.

Thank you for taking my submission into consideration.