

Bowdens Silver State Significant Development No 5765

Submission by Craig Boaden

This submission responds to the request for planning approval to develop and operate an open cut silver mine at Lue, 25 km east of Mudgee. The mine will involve a conventional open-cut mine with an out-of-pit waste rock emplacement facility, tailings storage facility, processing plant and other ancillary infrastructure. It is projected to extract and process approximately 2 million tonnes of ore per annum for approximately 15 years.

This submission provides comment which responds to costs associated with this development which will impact the environmental, social and cultural amenity of the area, especially the hamlet of Lue.

Based on my analysis of the EIS Reports and **in light of the negative costs which far outweigh the economic benefits, this application should be reconsidered and permission refused.**

Environmental costs

- Potential to contaminate water supply for Lue and beyond
- Potential to impact aquatic habitat and biota in sections of Lawsons Creek and Hawkins Creek and other creeks due to the inevitable accidental releases of toxic water.
- Noise impacts due to the extractive nature of the mine
- Loss of pristine landscape due to project associated mining, processing and distribution.

Social impacts

- Toxic levels of lead that will negatively impact community health especially the health of children
- Loss of sense of community due to destruction of landscape
- Anxiety and loss of social wellbeing due to uncertainty about the possibility of serious negative impacts
- Loss of community cohesion due to divisions in the community in relation to benefit/cost.

Cultural impacts

- Potential to destroy significant Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Loss of scarred tree and rock shelter objects
- Loss of on-site interpretation benefits if objects are removed to a 'Keeping House'
- Loss of self-worth due to lack of respect if valued Aboriginal cultural heritage is lost.

This Project presents **high levels of negative impact** at a time when environmental, social and cultural issues are at the forefront of planning decisions and community concern. This Project should therefore **not proceed**.

27 July 2020