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**BOWDENS SILVER MINE PROJECT – SSD - 5765**

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To whom it may concern:

I thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns and opinions regarding the proposed application of the Bowdens Silver Mine and appreciate you taking the time to read my submission.

I grew up in Mudgee and spent my entire childhood and schooling years in the area between 1980 – 1994. For many years since then and still to this day, I frequent the area with my husband and two adult sons visiting with family in the Mudgee and Lue regions. We are avid campers and return often to enjoy the beauty that this local region has to offer through its many forested areas and unspoilt waterways.

I first learnt about the Bowdens Silver Mine Project through my sister's family who have worked hard to establish their home on a farm located in Lue, only 1.5km from the proposed mine site. We often holiday here, enjoying the beauty, peace and quiet the area offers. To think that my family, along with many other families throughout the Lue region, should face the possibility of having to fight for something they have worked so hard for is appalling. The proposal of this project has already caused a negative impact on the welcoming and once tight knit local community of Lue, with several families already relocating from farms that have been in their families for generations.

From speaking with locals in Lue on various occasions I have visited the region, it seems that the information that is being provided relating to the project is not a clear reflection of what impact this will have on the area. More recently, it has come to light that this project will predominately be a lead and zinc mine rather than silver mining. I can only imagine what impacts the mining of these heavy metals will have on such a pristine environment. There are no "safe" levels of ingestion of these substances – what will be the repercussions of this be in the months and years to come? Where do these substances deposit when there are changes to the atmosphere surrounding the mining project?

The region has just come through one of the worst droughts in many years which had a huge impact on the water table. Given that water security, especially for farming communities is such a big issue, to propose a project that will effectively use up and poison the water supply for human use as well as the native flora and fauna within that region is beyond comprehension. When questions have been posed to the representatives for the mining project regarding the negative impacts that this mine will have on the local water supply, the answers have been misleading and inconsistent. This alone causes concern and stress for a community already negatively impacted by drought, fires and now viral pandemic. The mining company propose to build a tailings dam less than 1km from Lawson Creek. The repercussions of leaching into local water supplies for the area could be disastrous and irreversible. Has this been considered?

Another major issue will be the noise levels of a mine operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week along with the associated traffic flow within 2km of a community will take its toll on those residing in the area. Who is

expected to foot the bill of the upkeep of the already narrow winding roads through the area when they disintegrate with the increase of heavy traffic?

It seems there are several factors that have been ill-considered in relation to this mining project; none of which have any positive implications to the area. I strongly oppose this project, and hope that consideration will be taken to do the right thing for Lue and the environmental surrounds to put a stop to Bowdens Silver Mine from establishing this project in the proposed location.

Once again, I thank you for taking the time to review my concerns.