

27<sup>th</sup> July 2020

I make this submission to object to the construction and operation of the proposed Bowdens Silver Mine at Lue, NSW. This operation would hugely impact the astronomical community of the surrounding region which is world renowned for its dark skies.

It will severely impact me personally as I am an astrophotographer based at Wattle Flat, NSW which is approximately 57 kilometers from the site. My work is internationally recognised and I contribute my images, particularly those of the planets to a number of international forums and databases including HST Jupiter, PVOL and Alpo Japan to name a few. The international scientific community and organisations such as NASA & ESA use my images and those of others, in their planetary studies and in the planning of space probe missions. The Central West of NSW is ideally located for this work as the planets have a particularly favorable aspect from our wonderful southern skies. Australia's reputation as a contributor to the advancement of planetary science is greatly enhanced through this work, which will be put at risk by this proposal.

Beyond my work and that of my fellow astronomers, it is vital that we protect the pristine night skies of this region. As light pollution advances globally the refuges like the Central West of NSW, where dark skies remain are being constantly threatened. Far thinking people, including the Regional Councils understand the value of preserving our dark sky status with the opportunities that abound for tourism to take advantage of such skies. Tourism is now and will be more so into the future, a far bigger employer than mining and more important to the State's economy.

The statement in the *Part 8B: Lighting and Sky Glow Assessment* that the lighting would only have an impact as great as the full Moon is laughable. It shows a complete and utter misapprehension as to what is required to maintain light levels that do not impact astronomy and the darkness of the night sky. Astronomy and astrophotography during the days of the full Moon are virtually out of the question because the light pollution from our satellite is so great. By definition, as stated in the Assessment document, a lighting level that is comparable to the full Moon makes the impact from these operations untenable from an astronomy perspective. It is not reasonable for the impact of this pollution to be foisted on the peoples of the surrounding region.

We live in a world, where for the first time, many more children do not know the night sky and the wonders that abound there, than do. That which humanity has stared up at for millennia to come to some understanding as to where we fit into the scheme of things, is being robbed from the people as the price of progress. More and more we are coming to rue the loss of our connection to the planet and the heavens. Let not this not be another such folly.

For the reasons I have outlined above I strongly object to the proposed Bowdens Silver Mine. The *Lighting and Sky Glow* is manifestly inadequate and patently a whitewash. The impact on myself and others has not been properly assessed and does nothing to ensure the protection of a resource that belongs to all the people who live in this region, the State and Country more broadly.

Your sincerely,

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