



WELLINGTON VALLEY WIRADJURI
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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30 March 2022

Department of Planning

Re: Notice of Amendment Exhibition - Bowdens Silver Mine - Water Pipeline Amendment (SSD-10371-Mod-1).

To Whom it may concern,

Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (WVWAC) would like to thank you for your invitation to provide a response for This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage issue relevant to obligations to protect our Heritage within our Traditional Lands. Wellington Valley Wiradjuri represent traditional families with identified apical ancestry pre European occupation with our known Traditional Lands. We know our culture, country and continue with our association with our traditional lands (Ngurangbang).

WVWAC have the following comments, concerns and or recommendations:

Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (WVWAC) have not had time to conduct proper and meaningful consultation with other Traditional Elders and Traditional Community with cultural knowledge due to the very short period of exhibition.

What seems a simple matter for the Department of Planning is not a simple matter for us as Traditional Owners, time is needed to process the information available and look at what impacts this is going to have on our Traditional Lands to which WVWAC CEO Bradley Bliss is a descendant of the Clan that occupied this project site and wider Clan lands.

WVWAC have concerns around the following:

1. Water Supply Amendment Report, Description of the Proposed Amendment, Executive Summary, page xii.

"2. 130 megalitre (ML) turkeys nest dam (increased from 65ML)".

- With this increase holding capacity by 50%, what impacts is this going to have on any existing cultural heritage site/s.
- Does this change anything in the Submitted EIS Cultural Heritage Management Plan?
- Aesthetically what does this do to the area and how does this affect the overall Cultural Non Tangible losses relating to Songlines and cultural knowledge relating to landmarks?

"4. Six additional harvestable rights dams constructed within the Mine Site boundary".

- Aesthetically what does this do to the area and how does this affect the overall Cultural Non Tangible losses relating to Songlines and cultural knowledge relating to landmarks?

"6. The use of water production bores, previously intended to supply groundwater during the site establishment and construction, would be extended for advanced dewatering of the open cut pit".

- What is the impact of this action to the underground water table and what impact will it have surrounding properties and springs that feed Lawsons Creek.
 - What affect will this change in increased bore usage have on other local resident's private bores that Bowdens do not control?
2. Recently the status of Koala's was changed from Threatened to Endangered. Earlier this month another healthy Koala was identified at Bingman Crossing and from reports by locals in the area back to Community Consultative Committee Members and Aboriginal Community was that the Koala was photographed and GPS data recorded approximately 200m from the proposed Open Cut.

In section "Terrestrial Ecology" of the Executive Summary, on page xviii, it states the following:

"Impacts to threatened fauna has been assessed and a biodiversity offsetting obligation estimated in species credits for the following six species.

- *Koala (Phascolarctos cinereus)*
 - *Squirrel Glider (Petaurus norfolcensis)*
 - *Regent Honeyeater (Anthochaera phrygia)*
 - *Silky Swainson-pea (Swainsona sericea)*
 - *Small Purple-pea (Swainsona recta)*
 - *Large-eared Pied Bat (Chalinolobus dyweri)"*
- In real terms, what exactly does this actually mean for the local Koala and other listed species populations?
 - Also noted that the Koala is still listed and Threatened not Endangered as per its current legal status.
 - Biodiversity Offsets, where are these located and how does the local populations of these species access them?

Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (WVWAC) it's Traditional Elders, Members and other consulted Traditional Owner Community **Strongly Object** to this project being approved due to the ongoing changes, short notice periods, local community concerns, Cultural Heritage and Environmental concerns.

WVWAC look forward to further participating in the above project, sharing our knowledge of county and to ensure our Heritage is protected. We trust our response meets your requirements. Please contact WVWAC Directors should you require our assistance to address any Aboriginal issues to support your future plans.

Regards,



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