

## To Whom It May Concern

I strongly object to the rushed amendments, which are hugely significant changes, that have been made with no community consultation. A mere two week time frame is not adequate to give proper feedback.

To start with:

### Water

There is not enough water for this mine. This was recognised at the beginning hence the original proposal to pipe water from the Ulan & Moolarben mines. The onsite water availability has not magically increased just because the pipeline cannot be built.

The independent review of the data used for the water modelling has found some serious mistakes such as:

- They have used an average of combined data from Mudgee and Rylstone when it is well known that Lue is in a rain shadow and has less rainfall than either of those two places
- They have conveniently left out the driest years in their data
- Australia's climate variability is well recognised: in their modelling they allow for highs of 30% above average but only allow for lows of 14% below average. This is ludicrous. Any landholder who keeps rainfall records know that dry years can go as low as 50% below average.

The conclusion that there is negligible impact on downstream water users is wrong. Any loss of water in dry times is critical.

I refer you to the independent critique of the water assessment and water modelling for all the technical details. The critique clearly demonstrates there is not enough water for this mining project.

### Transmission Line Relocation

This new proposal is not much different to the original proposal so all previous objections stand (see copy of my original objection below).

Bowdens state only 4 landholders will be affected. This is not true. Many properties have wonderful views which will be impacted by the appearance of the powerline on the ridge. Moving the line 100m makes virtually no difference to the negative visual impact.

### 14 August 2021: Submission of Objection to Proposed Realignment of Powerline

I object to the proposed realignment of the Transgrid 500kv powerline, for the reasons outlined below.

- I object to the whole process of an amendment being added even before the Department has released an assessment report. This should have formed part of the original submission and been properly considered in the EIS. The original EIS was highly flawed and we see a continuation of poor environmental assessment with this amendment.
- It is a travesty of the environmental assessment process that this amendment is being considered even though the exact location of the realignment is not known.

- The realignment will result in 12.6ha of native vegetation and includes the threatened Ecological Community, Box Gum Woodland. With only 5% of this ecological community left in the Central West, every hectare is precious.
- As mentioned above inadequate environmental assessment has been done. Of particular concern are hollow bearing trees significant to Barking Owls and Greater Broad Nosed Bat identified close to the clearing for the transmission line. The importance of tree hollows (particularly large hollows in old trees) should not be underestimated especially following reduced habitat due to the the 2019-2020 bushfires.
- Adequate assessment has not been done of the impact on aboriginal cultural heritage. This is yet another example of the significant negative cumulative impact of mining being ignored.
- The proposed realignment will have a huge negative impact on the visual amenity of the region which is a major tourist destination. This has not been addressed.
- It is of great concern that there have been no discussions with the community regarding visual amenity, dust and noise associated with the amendment – yet another travesty of the planning process.
- We understand alternate options for proposed realignment were considered. Should this realignment go ahead the condition that a route that places the line on lower topography, avoiding the ridge and less destruction of native vegetation must form be enforced..

This whole project has serious issues relating to water and air pollution and should not be approved at all.