

Att Rose-Anne Hawkeswood:

[rose-anne.hawkeswood@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rose-anne.hawkeswood@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Rose-Anne,

**Re: State Significant Development No. 5765**

My name is Maria Battista and my family visit the Mudgee district to see my sister and her family at their farm at Lue.

I am writing to you to register my objection to the proposed Bowdens Silver mine - State Significant Development No. 5765.

I have five daughters, four of whom are school age, and my concern is for the health of the children at Lue Public School. I'm particularly concerned about lead-dust contamination in the school, given the evidence of harm to children in similar geology silver/lead/zinc locations such as Broken Hill - where I'm informed there has been significant loss of IQ in children.

The EIS is particularly unclear for the purpose of assessing community exposure to deposition of air-borne contaminants from mining operations particularly from lead and heavy metals. The information needed to assess dust transmission is insufficient to validate the conclusion drawn in the EIS, that people living in Lue village will not be affected. Importantly, the EIS appears to ignore the most concentrated sources of dust transmission materials – the tailings and the concentrates from processing activities. Also, the EIS does not analyse the effect of peak wind events on dust movements.

The EIS has only minimal data on actual soil and dust lead levels from the village buildings and Public School and it is old data, dating back to 2013, which is not relevant to today's village. The data collection needs to reflect the current risk and provide a baseline against which to assess future contamination and risk.

Finally, the compliance level for acceptable community exposure is taken from out of date guidelines (NSW 2003), whereas the EIS should use the more recent USEPA criteria (2019) which considers the upper limit for blood lead of children to be 5 micrograms per decilitre.

So in summary, the omissions in the EIS which need to be corrected are:

- Complete information is needed to enable independent assessment of air-borne dust transmission from the mine to the village:
  - The concentrated sources of dust transmission materials – the tailings and the concentrates from processing activities needs to be accounted for
  - The effect of peak wind events on dust movements needs to be accounted for
- Current data is needed on existing dust and soil lead levels in the public school and Lue village houses
- The compliance level for acceptable community exposure should be based on USEPA criteria (2019)

Yours sincerely



Maria Battista