

**PO Box 417 Beaconsfield Upper Vic 3808**

Director, Resource Assessments  
Planning and Assessment  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

**July 7th 2020**

**Applicant – Bowdens Silver Pty Limited**

**Application Number - SSD-5765**

**Application – Bowdens Silver Mine**

**I OBJECT to the Bowdens Silver Mine proposal.**

**I declare I have not made a reportable political donation in the previous 2 years.**

**Signature – Camilla Graves**

Dear Director, Resource Assessments

Members of my extended family live and have lived in Lue and on the Lue Rd out of Mudgee for 5 generations.

I have been a regular visitor of these families and their farms for the past 57 years of my life.

The location and environmental impact of this proposed mine is totally unacceptable.

The mine site has important environmental values that complement the natural farming systems that surround it.

The impact and associated hazards of this proposed mine is totally unacceptable to the residents of Lue and surrounds.

The mining techniques to be employed including cyanide extraction are totally unacceptable in this location.

Nothing is more precious than water resources including creeks and groundwater.

The impacts of the waste products of this proposed mine will be a concern for many future generations.

The reasons why I object to this proposal are:

1. This mine is 2km from the Lue township and a primary school which is totally unacceptable.
2. The mine will produce 95000 tonnes of lead - a highly toxic mineral. There is no safe level to exposure of lead especially for children and this mine is just 2kms from Lue School. Lead is a cumulative toxicant that affects multiple body systems and cannot be removed.
3. The mine will operate 24 hours a day seven days a week with blasting allowed 6 days a week - this is totally unacceptable and reasonable for the residents of Lue.
4. A deadly cyanide processing plant will operate on site which is totally unacceptable considering its location.
5. A highly toxic large tailings dam will be constructed less than a kilometre from Lawson Creek and will be there FOREVER long after the mine has been abandoned - these dams have been known to fail. The result would be an environmental disaster for Lawson Creek which feeds into the Cudgong River at Mudgee. It will pollute our water supply forever. Tailings dams regularly fail around the world, in fact there 23 tailings dams have failed in the world in the last five years including the dam at Newcrest Mining's Cadia Gold Mine near Orange NSW.
6. 227000 tonnes of ore will be trucked along the winding and narrow Lue Road through Mudgee town ship. Our local road is already very busy and quite dangerous as people drive too fast for the road's conditions. Many people from Rylstone use Lue Road to commute to Mudgee and beyond for work. Currently B Double Trucks are restricted yet I believe that ore will be moved by B Double Trucks. The road must be upgraded significantly should the mine go ahead.
7. The water level in Lawson Creek will drop by one metre rendering much of the Creek dry for all other users. Bowden's Mine will use more water from the Lawson Creek catchment than all current users combined.
8. Ground water levels on the mine site will drop by 25 metres . The open cut pit will continue to draw on ground water for up to 100 years after the mine has been abandoned.
9. The mine will produce two massive dumps of 56 million tonnes of acid forming rock and tailings (crushed ore remnants post processing) above the water table and local creek catchments of Price Creek, Hawkins Creek and Lawson Creek. 26 million tonnes of rock is PAF potentially acid forming which will be stacked over the water catchment covering 77 hectares. These waste dumps will most likely leach into our water table and the surrounding catchment.
10. Over 16 years to extract ore 43,700 tonnes of chemicals will be added (EIS S2.7.3 Reagent Management, Table 2.4, p2-37) to process the ore including 2850 tonnes of Sodium Cyanide. Many of the chemicals are toxic and will end up in the tailings dam along with 30 millions of crushed ore remnants which is 117 ha. This will sit above Lawson Creek catchment forever. Tailings Dams regularly fail around the world. Newcrest's Cadia Gold Mine at Orange failed in March 2018 – 1.33 million cubic metres of tailings escaped to be contained within another tailings dam on the mine site. I believe it was caused by an earthquake. Bowden's does not plan to have a second tailings dam should the first one fail. I recommend they have a second tailings dam for safety.
11. Tailings dams fail during significant rain events. We have rain records showing 225 mls overnight in February 2002 which caused major destruction in the Lawson Creek catchment. We regularly have large floods in Lawson Creek which dissipate very quickly. Bowden's would be subject to the same variations and suffer the consequences of extreme rain events.
12. The economics of this mine do not add up. (EIS Vol 5, Part 16C\_ Closure Cover Design, Appendix A, p.24) Assumed silver price in the EIS is US\$20.91/oz, (EIS S 4, Table 4.84 Key Assumptions Underpinning the Economic Assessment, p. 4-373) over the last 5 years the silver price has never reached this level and if production costs increase, the mine will be even less viable. A financially unviable mine represents an even greater threat as they may look for ways to cut corners which could affect safety.
13. The mine cannot source enough water locally so is relying on water from Ulan or Moolarben mines via a 58km pipeline through mostly private farm land, this supply has not been

guaranteed and most likely will only be available when seasons are good - in drought those mines will not have excess water. (EIS S2.10 Water Supply p.2 -62)

14. 5-16 tonnes of explosives and oxidising agents will be transported along Lue Road (EIS S2.4.3.2 Drill and Blast P2-23)
15. Bowden's does not offer a suitable plan for rehabilitation of the mine. When the mine closes the tailings dam and all the PAF will remain forever.
16. The mine covers areas habituated by koalas and Regent Honeyeater. It is also has Grey Box Grassy Woodland which will be destroyed by the mine.

Thankyou very much for the opportunity you have provided to make this submission.

Your Sincerely

Camilla Graves