

I am writing this submission in full support of the Bowdens Silver Project.

As a Mudgee resident and community member, I think the project will provide numerous benefits to Lue and the wider Mid-Western region.

Some of these benefits and also reasons to approve this project include:

- The creation of hundreds of jobs not only at the mine but also many more within the supporting industries and within the community shops and retailers. These jobs are vital to the local towns and communities and even more so now due to the economic devastation caused by Covid-19. The company has committed to provide preference to hire locals where possible.
- The EIS shows a project that is environmentally responsible while ensuring Lue remains a safe and viable place to live. This has been demonstrated in the Human Health Risk Assessment and also the outcomes and strategies within the Social Impact Assessment.
- The current design of the project has been an iterative process that has taken on community suggestions over time to achieve better outcomes.
- Financial gains for the state and region associated with job creation, royalties, population increases and use of local suppliers.
- Opportunities for youth to train and be employed within the mine and associated industries. This is particularly crucial for Kandos and Rylstone where a generation of youth see no future opportunities unless they leave the area. Future opportunities have the ability to keep families together. The social and economic fabric of Kandos and Rylstone has materially changed since a number of industries and employers have left the area and the Bowdens Silver Project has an opportunity to impact these towns positively.
- Long term opportunities for jobs, career development and a level of certainty for local residents and businesses.
- Silver is a versatile and necessary mineral that needs to be extracted for everyday life. It is commonly used in technology, medical applications and renewables.
- The direction of future workers and contractors to live within the local towns rather than in a worker's accommodation facility. More local residents over extended periods means more opportunities for better services to move into the area such as doctors and health providers, teachers, pre-schools, banks and Government providers.
- Investment within the community provided by Bowdens Silver has already provided generous support to local events, education providers and community groups and these types of contributions will only get stronger as they become an operating mine through the proposed Community Investment Program.
- Rehabilitation of the site will occur progressively and will meet legislative requirements.
- There is strong community support for this project which is not always captured in the assessment process.

It would be remiss of me to not state that I am employed by Bowdens Silver and have had the luxury of seeing the changes to the project over time in line with community consultation and commitments made by the company.

It also needs to be said that from a personal point of view, Bowdens Silver has provided me with an opportunity to learn new skills in a new industry which has ultimately led to my wife and I being able to buy a house locally, be near our families, start a family and contribute socially and economically to the local community. The approval of the Bowdens Silver Project will allow other young families and individuals to do the same.