

Date: 20 July 2020

Angela Perry  
23 Anderson Road Hawthorn East VIC

Applicant – Bowdens Silver Pty Limited  
Application Number - SSD-5765  
Application – Bowdens Silver Mine

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

Signature - .....

I strongly object to the Bowdens Mine.

Although I now live in Victoria, I grew up in Sydney and spent many of my holidays in the Mudgee region staying on my close friend's family large sheep and cattle property six kms downstream from Lue on the Lawson Creek. My friends still operate this property and I am aware that they have been worried by the prospect of Bowdens Mine. I have examined the EIS.

A lead mine is extremely toxic and Bowdens is only 2 kms from a primary school. Lead exposure is not safe at any level and particularly to young children. Mining causes dust and no matter how hard the operators try to settle it with water, dust will blow some on days of extreme heat with windy conditions.

The mine proposes to use 3 gigalitres of water per annum mostly from ground water and surface water. Water is currently a precious resource in the Lawson Creek valley yet Bowdens plans to take more from this valley than all current water users combined. My friends farming business will be destroyed as they rely on Lawson Creek for all their stock and domestic water. This creek has only just recovered from the drought when it went back to occasional holes. After mining commences, the EIS estimates the level of Lawson Creek will drop by one metre, rendering much of Lawson Creek dry in a drought.

Bowdens says they will source 15% of water from Ulan and Moolarben mines however Moolarben has no spare water. Moolarben is in a water sharing agreement with Ulan as Moolarben is a water deficit mine. Water purchased from Ulan is highly saline and only suited to laying dust as it rusts all machinery. Is this the water Bowdens plans to pump 58kms to Lue? That is not acceptable and its availability is doubtful.

Also I am particularly concerned by the almost certain risk that Acid Mine Drainage will occur at Bowdens as they are mining sulphide rich metals which through the action of bacteria when exposed to air will produce sulphuric acid. This acid releases heavy metals which then leach into the surrounding water table and streams causing serious pollution. This is a reality and serious risk of mining with this type of ores. The resulting pollution can continue for hundreds of years after a mine has closed placing a huge long term burden on society.

Bowdens mine poses a very real risk to the Lue community and the wider Mudgee region should it go ahead. I object to the Environmental Impact Statement.