

Submission to State Significant Development
Bowden Silver Mine, Lue NSW
Application number SSD-5765

July 22, 2020

RE: Objection to Bowden Silver Mine SSD-5765

To whom it may concern,

I am deeply concerned about the impacts from the potential Bowdens Silver and Lead Mine.

As a land owner who owns a farming property on the Cudgegong River, and I am deeply concerned about the significant amount of water required to operate the mine, and the way any pollutants entering the water catchment could have on my cropping and cattle enterprise. I am extremely concerned about impacts from dust and associated metals on drinking water supplies, livestock and aquatic environments.

The large amount of toxic material being processed at the mine – including lead, cyanide, cadmium and arsenic would be extremely detrimental to fragile ecosystems and the water catchment if this mine is allowed to go ahead.

We have just battled many years of drought, and the huge water requirement by the mine would undoubtedly put further pressure on the area's water table.

I am also deeply concerned that this important ecological and historic region will be threatened by the open-cut mine. Just last week I visited the region of Havilah and Dunns Swamp, and was blown away by its beauty, its rich agricultural lands and historical significance.

Other points of concern include the following:

- The proximity of tailings storage dam to Lawsons Creek, and the real potential for dangerous chemicals to leach into the creek and on to Cudgegong River.
- The fact the mine is to operate in close proximity to a public school, included as a sensitive receiver of mine pollutants (from its rooftop water supply) and traffic fumes, in addition to noise pollutants.
- My son, who has the chronic health condition of cystic fibrosis, is particularly vulnerable to increased dust particles in the air. He often visits nearby property Havilah, which will be negatively affected by increased dust in the airways. This mine would put him, and many others, in a critical danger.
- The destruction of local wetlands and waterholes caused by the proponent's annual water use, which their own surveys estimate will reduce groundwater levels by 25 metres at the site.

- The destruction of known habitat for endangered species, including the Regent Honeyeater, Koala, Box-Gum Woodland, Ausfeld's Wattle and Squirrel Glider.
- The social impact on local residents in Lue, Rylstone and Mudgee, and the regions dependence on tourism, which would be directly affected by the toxic, polluting mine, increased traffic and pollutants in a major tourism destination.
- The insufficient consideration of and consultation with traditional owners of the land, including Wiradjuri and Gallangabang peoples. Part 13 of the proponent's specialist consultant study details claims from several Aboriginal Land Councils that Bowdens Silver has *not* provided adequate planning documents, reports, or opportunities for real consultation about the mine proposal.

Given these specific concerns, I urge the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to refuse Bowdens Silver Pty Ltd's application SSD-5765 on the basis of its clear unsuitability due to ecological and cultural concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Killoran