

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am grateful for the opportunity to express my strong support for the proposed Bowden Silver Mining Project (BSMP), located near Mudgee in NSW.

As a long-standing supporter of environmentally responsible mining projects in Australia, I note several compelling reasons for the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) to approve the proposed silver mine without further delay. These reasons include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. **Environmentally-Conscious Development:** The BSMP Team have committed significant financial, engineering and scientific resources to provide plans for a long-life mine that complies with extant mining and environmental legislation, with particular emphasis on developing a site with minimal environmental impact to the land and associated water-table.
2. **Community Engagement:** My discussions with locals in the Mudgee region have reported a high-level of community engagement by the BSMP Team with local councils, prospective employers, affected graziers, townsfolk, including indigenous members of the community. This process has empowered local people to have a practical impact on the final mine proposal for which the BSMP now seeks final IPC approval.
3. **Long-Term Local Employment Opportunities:** With some 550 new jobs at the mine - and the real prospect of more jobs as the mine expands - this project represents an extraordinary opportunity for local people to participate in a major employment development for at least the next 23 years. Such prospects in a rural area in NSW offer well-paid employment for locals who might otherwise be forced to leave the Mudgee area to seek work opportunities of this calibre and duration.
4. **Current NSW DPE Approval:** I note that following a lengthy and comprehensive review of the BSMP submission by the NSW Department for Planning and the Environment (DPE), there was a positive recommendation by the DPE for the project. This is a compelling endorsement of the efficacy of the BSMP project, which should carry significant weight in the final assessment of the proposed mine's future.
5. **The Importance of Silver to the State and Federal Economy:** As both a precious metal and critical industrial commodity, silver is a vital component in the 'Green Revolution,' to which Australia has been an enthusiastic supporter on the global stage. The size and grade of the BSMP silver (and gold) resource will provide a substantial boost to not only the local economy, generate significant

state and federal revenue benefits, but also value-add Australia's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) future.

For the reasons outlined herein, I commend the IPC's positive assessment of the BSMP proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Benjamin B Spurgin OAM