

Independent Planning Commission.

Suite 15.02,

135 King Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000.

05/02/2023.

Proposed Development – Bowdens Silver. Exploration License 5920. Open cut mine.

My position in the community, is that of a private resident and Local Health Worker.

I am a landowner, bordering Lawson Creek, situated approximately 7 km from the township of Mudgee & 20 Km from Lue via road.

I have lived on this land for 34years, raised a family and continue to use the land for both beef and honey production.

I am of good health.

The Key issues that are important to me, re the development of the proposed Zinc, Lead, and small percentage of silver mine, to be known as Bowens Silver mine are as follow:

Public Health Issues which are of immeasurable concerns to me personally and professionally.

Lead Poisoning from dust and potential water contamination to water catchments. Dust will occur from increased activity due to mining, rain events & wind events causing the dust to settle in water catchments in the local areas.

Crystalline Silica from dust and potential contamination to water catchments.

Most country people have their own water catchment i.e., water collected from their home roof, which is stored into water tanks for drinking and bathing.

There is the likelihood of Lead and Crystalline Silica particles carried by wind for up to 5 – 7km a prediction by the mine information. This fall out may be increased up to 10 – 60km during some weather events. These dust particles will increase risk of contamination to water.

Past weather events have seen/recorded, dust particles from Western NSW, covering areas of the Greater Sydney catchment. The dust particles distributed some 300km plus from the source.

These dust events not only increase the risk of preventable health issues, but it also multiplies risks for suffers of Asthma and other respiratory diseases. In turn this creates stress on the health system and emergency services (NSW ambulance).

New South Wales (NSW) Health, Safe Work NSW estimates that, 1 in 100 workers/persons exposed to Crystalline Silica will develop Silicosis – Scars in the lungs, making it difficult for the lungs to take in oxygen. There is no cure.

NSW 2021 -2022 Dust Disease Register reported 18 cases and 4 deaths due to Silicosis in NSW alone.

World Health Organization (WHO) has recorded key factors re health issues associated with exposure to both Lead and Crystalline Silica.

Residents who live in an area of up to 60km of the mine, who are drinking and bathing in rainwater contaminated with Lead and Silica dust, collected from home catchment areas, will be exposed to the WHO documented health issues as set below.

Lead is a cumulative toxicant that affects multiple body systems and is particularly harmful to young children. At lower levels of exposure that causes no obvious symptoms, lead is known to produce a spectrum of injury across multiple body systems.

Lead can affect Paediatric brain development. Resulting in reduced Intelligence quotient (IQ), behavioural changes i.e., decreased attention span. Lead exposure also causes anaemia, hypertension, renal impairment and toxicity to the reproductive organs. The neurological and behavioural effects of lead are believed to be irreversible.

Lead in the body is distributed to the brain, liver, kidneys and bones. It is stored in the bones and teeth and accumulates over time.

Accumulated Lead is released into blood during pregnancy, it becomes a source of exposure to the developing fetus. There is no level that is known to be without harmful effects.

There are several precautions which health workers and emergency workers must be aware of for their own protection and the protection of the community, when dealing with possible contaminants carried by injured workers i.e. specialized chemical resistant Personal Protective Equipment.

I would ask, has the executive from the proposed mine contacted Health and Emergency Services?

Biotic effects on waterways: -

Bowden Mine indicates that they will use 1,857 mega litres (ML) of water per year for processing and dust suppression, the water to be obtained from Lawsons Creek.

Concerns re this are: -

Lawsons Creek is a rain fed creek i.e., no rain, no water. The most recent drought in 2019 saw the creek dry. Landowners along the creek were required to purchase water for stock and domestic use during that period.

If the mine is to harness the water, they are advocating, landowners will be forced to incur water purchasing costs frequently. These costs are expensive.

Over the 34 years of living where we live, we have witnessed Lawsons creek water flow being interrupted on occasions due to weather patterns of no or little rain.

Any bores, which the mine creates, will disturb the water table, again reducing the water flow in the creek.

Potential chemical/dust contamination to the creek water and water table will create impending devastation to crops, which are irrigated & stock which are watered/hydrated from the creek water.

Stock and crops will not be vendible, creating economic downturn for the landholders who depend upon Lawsons creek water for stock and crop hydration.

Contamination of the creek and water tables from Arsenic, Lead, Crystalline Silica and Cyanide will create Acid Mine Drainage (AMD). This process is not reversible, with the site/creek/water table not able to be rehabilitated

AMD causes stress on creek organisms such as the already endangered Platypus, which live in the creek.

Other creatures at risk and of importance which help to maintain water viability are yabbies, native fish, dragon flies and a multitude of vegetation, especially in the riparian zone.

Who will compensate for loss of income and destruction to water ways?

Are we able to make claim for man-made destruction?

Tailings Dam: -

Tailings Dams have proven in the past to be cost effective for mining operations (cheapest option) to dispose of their mining waste.

In the last decade alone, there have been 35 tailings dam failures globally.

Bowdens Mine is proposing to create a large tailings dam over a natural fault line.

Tailings dams are not environmentally sustainable, they are unstable due to by products collected, which are not part of the aerobic ecological system. If the tailings dam failed ecologically, it would be a disaster for the area.

Is there potential for the tailings dam to spill greater than the proposed 1.6ml per day of the mines predicted acid drainage into waterways and sub soil, in a heightened rain event?

Will the mine be providing regular water/soli test results to the general public within the greater Mudgee basin?

Will the Tailings dam be maintained, when the mine closes and what level of maintenance & reporting will occur to prevent contamination in the area?

Safety and maintenance in the area are paramount to the people living in the greater Mudgee catchment area.

Increased traffic on Lue Road: -

Lue road is a difficult narrow road to negotiate at the best of times.

There are several concealed driveways on the road. Users of these driveways will be placed at risk as will the school buses, with the increase of mine traffic, especially the B-double trucks per week, which the mine has proposed.

There have been significant serious accidents on this road over the past years. Some of these accidents occurring at the bottom of our property. We have assisted injured persons; this is both distressing and somber. With the increase of large vehicles, the state of the road and bridges (no side barriers on bridges) this is even more highlighted.

The risk of assisting potential injured workers who have travelled from the mine site in contaminated work wear also proposes a risk to the unsuspecting.

Potential for loss of property value is heightened due to the proposed mine. Value loss will be created due to potential decreased water volume in the creek, contamination to creek water and subsoil, AMD. These factors will create loss of income during retirement leading to dependency upon government welfare.

Thank you for considering my concerns within this submission.

Patricia Kempton

[REDACTED]

Mount Frome 2850

NSW

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Declaration

By making a submission and agreeing to our terms and conditions you confirm that:

- You have read and understood the Commission's Privacy Statement and Public Submissions Guidelines.

- The content of your submission is factually correct, does not contain offensive, threatening, defamatory, or inappropriate content, and otherwise contains expressions of opinion that you honestly hold. You have not provided any false or misleading information in your submission or omitted any information from your submission which would make it false or misleading.
- Your submission does not contain any material that you wish to keep confidential or any personal information (names and addresses) that can be used to identify another person without their consent.
- You agree to allow the Commission to use, reproduce and publish submissions within seven days of receipt, however in circumstances where significant numbers of submissions are received, this may take longer.
- You accept responsibility for any and all content provided in your submission.

I have read and agree to the Commission's terms and conditions above.

Signed _____

