



From: Robert McKittrick [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 19 February 2023 7:37 PM
To: IPCN Enquiries Mailbox <ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Submission regarding Bowden Silver Mine LUE NSW>

My name is Robert McKittrick and I am a resident of Mudgee and have been so for the past 35 years.

I am very concerned that this proposal for a lead and silver mine on the edge of Lue Township may go ahead. There will be many points put forward regarding the negatives for this proposal – most of which others will have far more knowledge than myself. However, I can and will point out the two major factors that concern me - these are geographical and logistical.

Geographical

The mine is situated all but at the headwaters of Lawson Creek, a major stream that flows down from the higher country westwards. It joins the Cudgegong River just some 25kms away, then flows 100kms further into Burrendong Dam (3-1/2 times the size of Sydney Harbour). This is the Macquarie River which then flows into the Macquarie Marshes and into the Darling River System – one of the major river systems on this Continent. Lawson Creek is known for major flooding and in some places it covers the adjoining road to a depth higher than 2 metres. On the way through, the river system in its first 250kms supplies domestic water for 5 large population areas:

Mudgee (Population 14,000),

Wellington (Pop 5,000),

Dubbo (Pop 37,000)

Narromine (Pop 6,500)

Warren (Pop 1,600),

flowing on thence to the Darling system. As mentioned earlier, others with more knowledge will comment on how the mine may attempt to control its toxic overflow from the proposed tailings dam; particularly during extreme weather events. Suffice to say that the record for mining companies polluting downstream waterways throughout Australia is pretty poor.

Logistics.

I understand that the Committee has been taken to the Mine site from Mudgee. They will have observed that the road leading from Lue to Mudgee becomes narrow and winding as it follows Lawson Creek on its way westward. There have been numerous accidents on this road, and – since the advent of our amazing tourist uptake, the road has become a mecca for groups of up to a dozen cyclists riding the road. The road now is known by locals as a “be very aware!” situation and has become quite dangerous. I myself rounded a blind bend and was confronted with 8 cyclists riding 2 abreast. Fortunately as I was driving a car and not a truck I managed to pull up. If the proposal goes ahead, major reconstruction work must be done to address this.

Mudgee has been very fortunate to be the centre for 3 coal mines in the district. These are some 40kms from town and are in a lower quality grazing and scrub area. Apart from the effect on two smaller village areas (Ulan and Wollar), it would be said that these mines have been an asset to the district – spending money in the town and always looking for extra workforce. However in this case, the Lue mine is not a coal mine. It is mining lead and silver and is to be situated in a particularly vulnerable area, with the potential to effect downstream a large population and agricultural and large sensitive area. Having spent the past 25 odd years marketing Beef on behalf of Eastern States clients, I am well aware of the monitoring for contamination through the Abattoir system. I know that the slightest observation of such contamination can ruin agricultural enterprises. I question that this proposal, with a potential to affect a huge downstream food producing area, is really worth that risk - and that the proponents should be looking to mine in a much safer environment elsewhere.

I have attended much of the hearing in Mudgee over the three days and was bemused by the lengthy diatribe from the MD, Mr. Anthony McClure describing the village of Kandos (Some

25kms east of the mine) – how it was in need of a boost and how his workforce could reside there. It was tempting to offer him a ride around the new developments in Mudgee where the coal mine workers build and live. 4/5 bedrooms, three car garages (for the boat etc.) made me think how on earth he will convince the workers wives to reside in Kandos when Mudgee is the same distance away!

He must do better.

It is on these two points that I wish to voice my strong disapproval and opposition to the mine and hope that the committee can come to a similar conclusion.

Thank you for allowing me to have the opportunity to address the enquiry.

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