



## ATTACHMENT 6

Comments on Bowdens Response to  
Submissions Report (RTS)

*(LAG April 2022)*

Updated May 2022



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## **Lue Action Group Comments on the Response to Submissions on Transmission Line Amendment**

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



## Contents:

Bowdens Amendments and Submission Responses	3
EIS Submission Response	5
1. Unique Submissions in response to EIS	6
2. Strategic Context	12
3. Visibility	12
4. Cost	16
5. Construction and Dismantling Activities	17
6. Employment	18
7. Property Management and Tourism	18
8. Agricultural Land Capability	18
9. Bushfire Impact	18
10. Environment	19
11. Koalas	21
12. Ground and Surface Water	22
13. Telecommunications	23
14. Tailings Dams failures in NSW, Orange and other places	24
15. Social Impact	24
16. Community Consultation and Representation	25
17. Lue Action Group Queries and Comments	26
18. Road use	27
19. Landowners	28
20. Water Supply Amendment Submissions	32
21. Conclusion	39
22. Bowdens Water Supply Amendment Newsletter	41

## **Bowdens Amendments and Submission Responses**

This report provides comments on the Bowdens Responses to Submissions following the exhibition of the EIS, the Transmission Line Amendment and the Water Supply Amendment. LAG notes that Bowdens overestimate, underestimate, avoid or make exaggerated statements in material available to the public and the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in response to submissions.

The Water Supply Amendment, presented and exhibited on the DPE website, at the same time as the Transmission Line Amendment Submissions Report, removed a major component of the project being the water supply pipeline and also included the realigned the 500kV Transmission Line approximately 300m to the west following overwhelming opposition to its realignment along the mine-site boundary.

Submissions opposing the transmission line realignment included concerns regarding noise, visual impacts, impacts to the environment, wildlife, endangered and threatened species, increased heavy vehicles and other traffic on local roads, excessive clearing of bushland, disposal of waste material, as well as previously expressed concerns about the project generally, including Acid Mine Drainage, Lead Poisoning and other health concerns, social impacts, dust, light pollution, the Tailings Storage Facility, lack of rehabilitation, no power supply infrastructure to the site, and the excessive use of water, whether licenced or not, that will impact all ground and surface water, including springs, bores and wells in the area as well as Lawsons Creek.

Lue Action Group has previously provided expert reports on matters not dealt with factually or containing outdated data and modelling, typographical errors, or unproven statements in the EIS or the amendments. LAG has queried many aspects of reports found in the EIS and the amendments and has received inadequate responses or in some cases no response to its queries.

This paper commenting on EIS submissions displayed on the DPE website and Bowdens responses to those submissions contains no new material (excepting photographs taken from Property 91) but instead relies on information that is available on the DPE website, Bowdens website, Bowdens Newsletters, Media Releases and other readily available material.

LAG concludes that the Bowdens responses to submissions confirm that the environmental and social impacts to Lue and surrounding areas are extreme and intolerable. Acceptable mitigation measures are unlikely to be economically feasible and in addition to the lack of essential infrastructure including an external water source, transport infrastructure and a power supply this project has little or no chance of success.

**There were 3 main components of this project listed in the EIS.**

- 1. An open cut silver lead and zinc mine**
- 2. Associated infrastructure**
- 3. Water Supply Pipeline**

Surely if a major component of a project is removed, whether this component is unpopular or not, the Department of Planning and Environment must call for a new SEARs and EIS. Please see below an extract from the SEARs issued in 2019 which clearly states the development includes a water supply pipeline. The SEARs also clearly states that the EIS must include all surface infrastructure required for the project. The EIS does not include plans or costings or assessment of the power supply source for the project being the 66kv transmission line from Bylong Valley Way to Lue or rehabilitation of the site.

## The SEARs states:

Application Number	SSD 5765
Development	<p>The Bowdens Silver Project, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• developing an open cut silver, lead and zinc mine and associated infrastructure, including a water supply pipeline;</li><li>• extracting and processing up to 2 million tonnes of ore a year for up to 17 years;</li><li>• transporting the processed ore from the mine via road; and</li><li>• rehabilitating the site.</li></ul>
Location	2.5 km northeast of Lue, in the Mid-Western Regional LGA
Applicant	Bowdens Silver Pty Limited
Date of Issue	21 June 2019
General Requirements	<p>The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development must comply with the requirements in Clauses 6 and 7 of Schedule 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000.</p> <p>In particular, the EIS must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a stand-alone executive summary;</li><li>• a full description of the development, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the resource to be extracted, demonstrating efficient resource recovery within environmental constraints, and having regard to DRG/DRE's requirements (see Attachment 2A and 2B);</li><li>- the mine layout and scheduling;</li><li>- minerals processing;</li><li>- surface infrastructure and facilities (including any infrastructure that would be required for the development, but the subject of a separate approvals process);</li><li>- a waste (overburden, tailings, etc.) management strategy;</li><li>- a water management strategy, having regard to the EPA's and DPI's requirements (see Attachment 2A and 2B);</li><li>- a rehabilitation strategy, having regard to DRG/DRE's requirements (see Attachment 2A and 2B); and</li><li>- the likely interactions between the development and any other existing, approved or proposed mining related development in the vicinity of the site;</li></ul></li></ul>

The component the proponent removed from the project is the external Water Supply Pipeline, a vital item of infrastructure for this project. Without an external water source the project as it stands cannot proceed. An excuse such as "other metalliferous mines do not have external water sources" is not a reason for this mine to go ahead in a valley with limited water resources.

In a recent CCC meeting an employee of RW Corkery and representative of Bowdens insisted that the mine would be relying on the water collected as allowed under "harvestable rights". He argued that Bowdens could construct dams up to 180.6 MLs in size and Bowdens would catch 180.6 MLs every time it rained. This means that an SSD project will be relying on rainfall to proceed. It is noted that RW Corkery also provided the sub-standard Agricultural Impact Statement as part of the EIS with no reference to existing agricultural property landowners and agricultural water users.

Bowdens do not have sufficient Water Access Licences in the Lachlan Fold Belt nor the Sydney Basin to provide water for this project. And even if they did the taking of this water would cause severe water losses to all surrounding users.

Bowdens propose to provide water for their operations entirely from their site and their surrounding

landholding totalling 2580 ha. Bowdens do not own all the land in the 2580 ha area.

They intend to catch all the water that falls on their mine site, as well as all the water available under their harvestable right from adjacent lands and prevent and stop this water from entering Lawsons Creek and being available to downstream users.

This project has a high risk of adversely affecting and impacting groundwater and surface water and Bowdens have not attempted to reduce or mitigate that risk.

**Bowdens do not have a secure water source.**

**Bowdens mine site does not have a power supply.**

**Bowdens mine site has inadequate transport infrastructure.**

### EIS Submission Response

Generally Bowdens have not responded in to the questions and comments about the following matters put to it in submissions following the EIS submission period or the Amendment submission period.

The following matters require proper analysis and an in depth responses rather than direction to non-existent or unclear sections of the EIS. LAG is aware that Bowdens will not be the operator of the mine at Lue therefore will be unable to respond in many cases.

- Actual plans and costings of the relocation of the 500kV Transmission Line
- Actual plans and costings of 66kV Transmission Line supplying electricity to the mine and processing plant
- Actual plans and costings of the Tailings Storage Facility complying with EPA recommendations and guidelines
- Actual traffic numbers on the road
- Accurate numbers of employees
- Evidence of Water Access Licences
- Evidence of a secure water source
- Completion of the 16 management plans promised in the amendment
- An Earthquake Management Plan
- An Acid Mine Drainage Management Plan
- A Flood Mitigation Plan
- A Drought Mitigation Plan
- A Koala Management Plan
- Telecommunications Management Plan
- Proper reasons why Bowdens has not communicated in meetings with the Community Consultative Committee in matters relating the issuing and timing of the EIS and its Amendments, the removal of a secure water source from the EIS, the agreement with MWRC and other matters that the CCC had the right to know prior to them being public knowledge
- Proper analysis of the reduction in telecommunications availability once an additional 320 or more people commence using the tower and a Plan for the reinstatement of telecommunications for individuals and businesses when coverage and availability is reduced or not available
- Proper response to water users in Lawsons Creek regarding reduced flows in Lawsons Creek due to the mining and processing operation
- Proper response to submissions referring to the removal of waste

- Proper response to submissions referring to the odour of the tailings dam
- Proper and respectful response to landowner R81 regarding her loss of views
- Proper and unique responses to submissions referring to corruption and bad behaviour by Bowdens employees
- Proper respectful responses to comments and queries from neighbouring landowners and businesses and others who have lived and worked in Lue for many years.
- Proper in this context should be taken to mean accurate, truthful, thoughtful, respectful and unique

Bowdens have not responded or acknowledged in any way the fact that many submissions in response to the EIS were fake or copied. Bowdens continue to use false numbers in material available to the public and others.

LAG formally requests that Bowdens respond and correct material on their website, in newsletters and in other places that contains incorrect material. Even their Chairman Keith Perrett knowingly submitted 2 submissions.

### **1. Unique Submissions in response to EIS**

The Amendment Report on page 10 states “Finally, the overwhelming support demonstrated in submissions on the EIS supports the strategic context for the Project. 1 504 submissions or 79% of all submissions received provided support for the Project. A similar level of support exists within the Mid-Western Regional LGA with 682 submissions or 74% of all submissions from this area supporting the Project.”

It should be noted that Bowdens state that they have received 1504 submissions in support of the project but these include duplicates, even two from the Chairman of the board, many from people as far afield as Western Australia, who might or might not be stakeholders, many on forms written in the same handwriting and unsigned, with a one word comment such as “jobs”, several from employees and over 900 submissions supporting the project with the comment “jobs” or similar as well as submissions from people from all over Australia and at least 12 submissions with no name, no address and not signed.

All these submissions were counted by the DPE (formally DPIE) and these incorrect numbers have been used in amended submissions, on the Bowdens website, in material left in local letter boxes and in Media Releases. The DPE states they are not responsible for these submissions. Who then is responsible?

From Lue there are less than 40 supporters, many supporting submissions are unsigned, written in the same handwriting and with only a few words. See below five separate examples downloaded from the DPE (DPIE) Public Submissions with a Lue address with similar messages and handwriting. (Search conducted by searching Name Withheld and then checking for a Lue, NSW address. (In order to prevent access to submissions this feature is no longer available with the DPE claiming the IT department is at fault)

**Bowdens Silver**

Application Number: SSD-5765

☒ Support      ☐ Object      or      ☐ Comment only

Reason / Comment:

BRING WORK TO LUE

**Bowdens Silver**

Application Number: SSD-5765

☒ Support      ☐ Object      or      ☐ Comment only

Reason / Comment:

IT WILL BRING WORK & MONEY TO THE AREA

**Bowdens Silver**

Application Number: SSD-5765

☒ Support      ☐ Object      or      ☐ Comment only

Reason / Comment:

MINING BRINGS JOBS & MONEY TO
THE TOWN



**Bowdens Silver**

Application Number: SSD-5765



Support



Object

or



Comment only

Reason / Comment:

Create Local Jobs
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**Bowdens Silver**

Application Number: SSD-5765



Support



Object

or



Comment only

Reason / Comment:

Create Local Jobs
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The EIS was submitted during the COVID lockdown in June 2020 when many people lost their jobs and were suffering extreme hardship. In any event many submissions including those from Rylstone and Mudgee are not from “stakeholders”. A submission from a person in Kandos whose comment is “jobs” cannot compare to the submission from a mother of young children living nearby, within sight and downwind of a lead mine site and having to share her narrow dusty gravel road with heavy vehicles and workers vehicles. No amount of sponsorship to Lue Public School is going to compensate for her loss of amenity or prevent her children from ingesting lead.

**What is the consequence if Bowdens does not create the jobs it promises?**

LAG would hope Bowdens supporters are unaware how close the project is to Lue, the population of Lue, or how environmentally dangerous this project is. Appendix 5 of the Submission Report, for example, does not mention Lue or its proximity to the mine site in its description of the project. It is doubtful that a person from MacMasters Beach, or Bellevue Hill, or someone living in an apartment in Darling Point has read the entire 2000 plus pages of the EIS and its attachments and has gained enough knowledge of the district to be able to state that this project is environmentally sound and will have no social impact on Lue.

The supporting submission below has been submitted by a resident of Rylstone, an Australia Post licensee, a MWRC councillor and an employee of Bowdens and supports the view that many in the community are misinformed about the disastrous environmental consequences of this project. There would not be many that would agree with this submissions assertion that this is a low impact environmental project. This supporter lives and runs his business in Rylstone, about 20 kms from Lue.

Rylstone, far from struggling, is booming, it is on the tourist drive from Mudgee to Ilford, with the Bylong Valley Way passing through Rylstone taking travellers from the Hunter Valley to Bathurst, the Central West and further South. It is a busy little town, with restaurants, cafes, pubs and boutiques. With its delightful avenues of Plane Trees shading historical stone buildings it is a pretty town. Understandably popular with tourists, travellers and other visitors

This Rylstone resident was also employed by Kepco, the Korean company involved in the failed coal mine proposal in the Bylong Valley and was also a strong supporter of Coal Exploration in the environmentally sensitive Hawkins Rumker areas which was also refused. Rylstone residents have been on the receiving end of this retailers "difference of opinion" which could also be characterised as intimidation or rudeness. As an Australia Post employee this individual is also subject to that organisations Code of Conduct which he has contravened on at least one occasion.

It should be noted that this submission failed to disclose that it has been submitted by a Bowdens employee.

[REDACTED]

## Support

RYLSTONE , New South Wales

### Message

This project is environmentally sound, it is essentially to the survival of our towns by providing employment opportunities and for increased business in our struggling local economy. The amendments to the project decreases risk to an already low impact environmental project. The support this company gives to our community is to be congratulated, due to the business already closed down in our community, Bowdens is one of the few that provides educational support and financial support to much need volunteer organisations and community projects.

### **What is the consequence if an individual or company or organisation knowingly makes a statement or comment that will endanger the health and wellbeing of another individual?**

The Bowdens website <https://bowdenssilver.com.au/> does not show a map indicating the proximity of the project to the homes and properties in Lue. It is very likely many supporters of the project would be unaware that they are supporting a project that will result in an enormous negative social impact to those people who live and work in and near Lue. What is the consequence if Bowdens does not fulfil all its promises?

There were 84 submissions in response to the EIS which gave their address as Lue and of those, 44 are opposed to the mine. They are unique, thoughtful and concerned about the impact of the project on Lue and their properties, their friends and neighbours. Of the supporting submissions some had a one word comment, several were written in the same handwriting and unsigned, and the CEO of Bowdens who resides in Sydney's eastern suburbs listed his address as Lue. He is a very large shareholder (and recently received 10,000,000 shares as a bonus) and has an interest in the Lue Hotel. The Lue Hotel used to be a place of special interest in Lue prior to its purchase by people associated with the project. Now it is not included in the maps and is a place that caters for employees and other mine associates and according to the manager will soon be turned over to FIFO or mine workers. Bowdens shareholders are most likely the only individuals who might gain financial benefit from the project. While the CEOs annual remuneration and package of 10,000,000 shares and million dollar bonuses are not unrealistic for a mining CEO it is a significantly greater income than a small business or tourism operator or a farmer or a resident in Lue would expect to

receive. An amount of approximately \$108 million is allocated for employment in the Economic Assessment over the life of the mine (or 16.5 years) to the 200 – 320 predicted employees and contractors employed by Bowdens.

This analysis of submissions from the Lue area also includes the localities of Havilah, Bara, Hayes Gap, Monivae, Pyangle, Camboon, and Breakfast Creek as well as some residents and properties outside these areas that will be affected by the now defunct contaminated water pipeline from the coalfields, the new transmission line (not in EIS), the increased traffic on the Lue Rd, the AMD and the contamination of Lawsons Creek. 131 submissions from the wider affected area opposed the project while only 73 submissions supported the project. Many local supporters of this project stand to gain financially or have received some sort of sponsorship or are hopeful of a job or are already employed or contracted to the project.

Many individuals opposing this project are opposed to the project because their homes and properties, lifestyles, health, surroundings and businesses will be damaged and changed in a way that is out of proportion with the minor benefits of this project for a few.

The DPE (DPIE) has stated on more than one occasion that they are only interested in the first 50 opposing submissions that will trigger the IPC. Unfortunately Bowdens have used all the submissions, whether unique or not, duplicated or not, genuine or not, to promote the project in the Amendment Report, the Submission Report and in a Media Release, on their website, and in Newsletters to encourage investment in the company based on the assumption that this project has a majority of community support. Not only is this kind of reporting disheartening for Lue residents and those adversely affected by the project, but shareholders and others are being misled in a way that may lead to the loss of their investment when the project is refused or has conditions placed on it that will prevent the project from going ahead. Even the Lue Hotel manager is under the impression that he will be welcoming mine workers to his establishment in the immediate future. The press release in the Mudgee Guardian states "...that a peer reviewed DPIE report shows the silver mine will 'present no health risk of concern to the local community'". Surely the DPE (DPIE) has not made this statement when it has access to numerous reports and documents showing evidence of the dangers of noise and lead and lead dust, amongst other things, to the health and wellbeing of Lue residents.

The Minister has a duty of care to the residents and landowners and others who live and work in Lue to protect them from the adverse consequences resulting from mining and associated activities at or near Lue.

See below examples of submissions downloaded from the DPIE website. (The submissions are cropped to save space and the originals can be found on the DPIE website)

**Bowdens Silver**

Application Number: SSD-5765

☒ Support    ☐ Object    or    ☐ Comment only

Reason / Comment:

Good for the community

Submission from a supporter in Lue whose partner works for Bowdens

**Bowdens Silver**

Application Number: SSD-5765

☒ Support ☐ Object or ☐ Comment only

Reason / Comment:

Jobs & Money

Another submission from a supporter in Lue

In the areas that will be directly affected by the mine and the mine components, such as the increased traffic, and those living and relying on Lawsons Creek most submissions are opposed and against the project.

See the below submission comment from a supporter in the wider area who it seems is undecided as to the importance of the environment versus financial gain.

**Bowdens Silver**

Application Number: SSD-5765

☒ Support ☐ Object or ☐ Comment only

Reason / Comment:

The impact on the environment far outweighs the economic benefit
I support the application for the
jobs and the business it will bring
to the community

Supporting Submission example (Name was supplied but submission not signed)

The Transmission line Amendment received 115 public submissions. 105 are opposed to the rebuilding of the 500Kv Transmission. While this overwhelming response against this amendment has resulted in another amendment to the rebuilding of the transmission but the amendment states the Transmission Line is moved only 200ms to the east. There is not one site line or visibility assessment from any home or property to the east or south of the mine site. We are informed in the submission report that it is unreasonable to expect any home or property in this area to be assessed.

The following comment was made in the Amendment Submissions Report on page xv. This is a justification for the lack of support for the project and the proponent is reminded that many supporting submissions were duplicates and can therefore not be relied upon to give an accurate

picture of the support for the project. The reader is reminded that the Transmission Line is not listed as a major component of the project even though the project cannot go ahead without its removal.

*“The proposed re-alignment may also be considered in light of the intended purpose, that is, to provide access to a strategically significant resource. This in turn would enable the efficient development of a mine that would provide substantial royalties to the NSW Government and would support and enhance local employment and business for the life of the Project and most likely beyond. The benefits of the Project are clearly demonstrated in the support that has been provided from many groups in the past. This in turn supports the re-alignment of the 500kV power transmission line as a component of the Project.”*

## **2. Strategic Context**

The Amendment Report states on page 10 “In terms of the strategic context for the re-alignment of the 500kV transmission line, the western limit of the main open cut pit would be constrained until the transmission line is moved. Therefore, it is considered essential to the successful development of the main open cut pit and access to the identified Mineral Resource. While alternatives were considered that proposed refined development of the main open cut pit in order to avoid re-alignment and impacts to existing towers, these were rejected as it would risk interrupting power supplies throughout NSW.”

The map Figure 1.2 on page 4 of the Amendment Report indicates (poorly) that the “re-aligned” Transmission Line and towers will be within 500m of the Mine Pit and adjacent to the south western boundary of the mine site. I remind the reader that the Transmission Line is not being realigned but re-constructed followed by the demolition of the existing power line. Power supply in NSW cannot be interrupted. There are other unidentified lines adjacent to the Transmission line on Figure 1.2 and when another map of the Mine Site Layout is inspected it can be seen that these lines indicate a soil stockpile area.

Maps could not be located in the EIS, the Amendment Report, the Submissions Report or the EIS Summary that showing the finished vegetated height of the soil stockpiles adjacent to the Transmission Line or the height of rehabilitated landforms?

How is it intended that the Transmission Line will be protected from mining operations, blasting and vibration, low level noise, construction traffic, acid damage and other operational hazards. As is stated in the Amended Report there is a risk of “interrupting power supplies throughout NSW”. To respond by stating that there is no risk of damage is not an adequate response if no study has been undertaken.

The Amendment Report on page 10 also states there is a need for environmentally and socially sound projects to support the local economy.

The Bowdens Silver Project is neither environmentally nor socially sound. Every aspect of the environment will be harmed. This project provides no benefit to the environment whatsoever. The social fabric of Lue will be changed and harmed. There is no benefit to the way of life in Lue. Bowdens shareholders have already provided an example of this by purchasing the Lue Hotel and closing it down most of the time.

## **3. Visibility**

At the time of the construction of the Bayswater to Mt Piper Transmission Line there was a great deal of concern and discussion and debate in the district about the effect the powerline would have

on the beautiful landscape at Lue and the existing land use and every attempt was made to avoid Lue and as many homes as was possible. A compromise was reached ensuring that the transmission line is not visible from Lue Village and only one tower can be seen from further west of Lue. The transmission line currently goes through Dungeree which is the original settlement to the east of Lue and now has about 8 or 9 homes. As you know a photograph of these 60m towers does not really indicate how enormous they are and how much they dominate the landscape.

The existing transmission line crosses the Lue Rd at Dungeree and can be seen, from all land and homes in this area, heading north behind a hill and out of view. At this point it is proposed that the new transmission line will be constructed on the ridge to the west and to east of Lue. It will then be seen clearly by all the homes on the east of Lue (please advise location of the map in the Amendment Report showing homes in this area) and the homes in Dungeree will see many more of these towers than at present. The homes on Pyangle and Maloneys Rds will also see the relocated towers. Most likely 6 or more additional towers will be visible from Dungeree along the ridge.

There are many homes and thousands of acres of beautiful countryside, farmland and bushland that will have a view of the towers and powerlines. They will overwhelm the village and be visible from almost every home and property. The properties adjacent to the mine site and along the western boundary and to the north of Lue are very badly affected and while there may be no homes on this land, this land is still a place to be enjoyed by its owners and occupiers. This land may be built upon in the future. The nearby residences are much more than a residence and the owners enjoy a rural lifestyle spending time outside with animals, gardening, growing vegetables and doing all the other things that people who live in the bush enjoy doing.

According to Figure 1, Mine Site, on Page 4 of the Amendment Report the Transmission Line will be constructed along the western boundary. The construction of the Transmission Line will require clearing of up to 70m x 3500m of bushland or more and the cleared and bare hill will be visible from neighbouring land and the wooded skyline will be bare of trees and be replaced by 60m towers and bundles of cables that are easily seen in the sun. The Transmission Line is simply a drawing on a map, it has not been surveyed or planned or costed or been discussed in depth with Transgrid.

What would the result be if Transgrid surveyed the proposed route and found that it was an unsuitable location for a transmission line?

Bowdens must supply plans and costings and construction times to the DPE and the residents of Lue so that they are able to provide an informed opinion on the construction of the new 500kV Transmission Line and also the required 66kV Transmission Line.

Bowdens stated in the Submissions Report on page 378 "However, no exceedances of relevant criteria are predicted for any properties within Lue nor would any components of the Mine Site be visible from within Lue".

At best this statement is wishful thinking.

Bowdens must provide accurate maps and photomontages that show the relocated Transmission Line from every direction, not just from the Lue Rd to the east of Lue. There are many properties in Lue which will be unaware of the changes to their views.

Bowdens must provide a shaded map that will accurately indicate which lands will view the new Transmission Line. Lines on a map from one point to another do not accurately describe the visual impact of these enormous towers and the cabling.

Properties as far away as Havilah will see the new towers and wires on the skyline. Bowdens must provide accurate photomontages from the south, east, west and from the north showing the new

Transmission Line from various distances. Lines on a map from various residences do not accurately show the view a landowner will have from their entire property. Provide a shaded map. Landowners have the right to be properly and accurately informed in a way that is easily accessible and easy to understand.

Bowdens must also provide accurate maps and photomontages that show the new Transmission Line from all the homes on the western side of Lue, on the southern side of the Lue Rd. The photomontage in the Submission report showing the view from one property on Lue Road does not use a wide angle lens and therefore the eastern view from this home is not included. Due to the lack of information provided to the landowners of this property they will not be informed of the changes to the extraordinary panoramic views of the district from this property.

Bowdens should also provide a photomontage with both eastern and northern views from the home north of the railway line immediately west of the village. The resident of this home has supported the project but is most certainly unaware of the impact on his views. Please also provide for this resident a photomontage from his property facing west so that he can be informed of the impact of the new Maloneys Road and the new 2 lane Railway Bridge. Most maps and photomontages are hidden in the pages of Appendices, tables and figures and not easily accessible to the general public or any other reader.

Bowdens has responded to requests for additional visual assessment stating that requesting these basic studies is “unrealistic”. RLA has carefully photographed selected homes in the village and has carefully taken photographs and presented a photomontage from property R81 that excludes the Waste Rock Embankment, the Transmission Line, Maloneys Road and other infrastructure. Property R81 will be adversely affected by this project and to submit a report in the way RLA have is dishonest and unprofessional. These reports are relied on by many people to make decisions and to deliberately exclude properties with views and selectively include properties with little or no views is unacceptable. To state that the landowner will only have a view like this below for 9 years is insulting and disrespectful particularly when RLA has deliberately excluded vital information.



**Plate 5.3      Photomontage R81 – Year 8**





View of the Mine Site from Property 91 adjacent to property R81



View overlooking Lue indicating its close proximity to the mine site to the right of the photograph.  
No visual assessments or any other assessments have been conducted on property 91.





A metalliferous mine site similar to the proposed mine site

#### 4. Cost

It is noted on Page 5 of the Amendment Report that the re-aligned transmission line would be constructed during Year 3 of operations and will take 6-10 months to complete.

In the Bowdens Silver Project Environmental Impact Statement Summary Booklet on page 10 the new Transmission Line is clearly marked on the diagram showing the End of Site Establishment.

This same booklet lists the Project Components and Summary of the Project on Page 7. The new 500Kv Transmission Line is not listed as a Project Component.

And yet the Amendment Report on Page 9 states that the “500kV transmission line was a component of the Project as described in the EIS and the amendment is largely administrative as it amends only the process for seeking development consent for the works.”

The Amendment Report on Page 10 states the need for environmentally and socially sound projects. They are correct but unfortunately this project is not environmentally or socially sound.

The following queries were not responded to or the response cannot be located

1. Why is the relocation of the Transmission Line not listed as a Project Component?
2. Why is the Transmission Line shown on a diagram of the components constructed at the End of Site Establishment?
3. Why is the construction of the new Transmission Line and demolition of the existing Transmission Line not included in capital costs?
4. Why is the construction of the Transmission Line not listed as a component in Appendix 5 of the Submissions Report.

The Amendment Report page 8 states ...avoiding the re-alignment would provide a significant cost saving to Bowdens....

Describing the construction of 10-14 new 60m towers and the removal of 10 or more existing 60m

towers as realigning the transmission line is an understatement. The reader is given the impression that the Transmission Line can simply be moved to the new location with very little effort. The new 500kV Transmission Line with its 10-14 towers 60m high and the associated clearing and roadworks must be constructed and connected live to the existing 500kV Transmission Line before the existing Transmission Line can be removed. Without the necessary surveys, plans, costings and an accurate time line the construction of a new Transmission Line must be refused.

Bowdens made the following statement but neglected to consider the cost of the feasible engineering required to construct underground or in a different location or any other construction design that Transgrid may require. LAG suggests the Transmission Line be constructed underground.

During consultation undertaken in preparation of the Project Feasibility Study detailed in Section 1.5.6 of the EIS, TransGrid advised Bowdens Silver in written correspondence dated 23 August 2017 that *“there is no engineering reason for the line realignment to be unfeasible and that network outages, constructability and design can all be managed”*. This advice was reiterated in Section 2.1 of the *Amendment Report*.

Any project that needs to use the excuse of “the substantial economic benefits of this section of the main open cut pit including royalties to the State of NSW” is surely grasping at straws. The unbudgeted costs of constructing the project components including a new 2 lane railway bridge and the relocation of a public road, a new creek crossing which will most likely require a two lane bridge, the relocation of 10-14 60m towers in a 3.5 km section of a 500kV Transmission Line and the redesigned Tailings Dam constructed on a fault line over existing watercourses. In addition there are the important components that are not components of the project including the power supply needing to come 20kms through hostile properties, road widening and repairs to Lue Road the bond payable to Mid-Western Regional Council to cover roadworks but not the failure of the tailings dam amongst other things.

## **5. Construction and Dismantling Activities**

The dismantling of the existing transmission line is a huge task. Dealt with in a 12 line paragraph. The existing towers are 60m high, constructed of steel and concrete with 3.5 km of cable bundles. This is a huge amount of material to remove from the site. None will be able to be reused because the new towers will be constructed and connected live before the existing towers and cable can be disconnected and removed. It is doubtful that only minor earthworks will be required as articulated semi-trailers and Franna Cranes are listed as equipment involved in the re-alignment works and removal of the redundant towers and will not be able to travel on minor access tracks. The list does not include concrete trucks that will be required to deliver the concrete needed for the footings. The ridge where the proposed new Transmission Line is to be constructed is very steep and rugged. Concrete trucks have since been added but will struggle to reach the site due to the poor access. The number of fully laden vehicles travelling through Lue to the Pyangle Road turnoff and then proceeding to the side of Bingman Hill has not been accounted for.

The following queries were not responded to or the responses cannot be located -

1. It is possible that unusable materials would be disposed of at the Mudgee Waste Management Facility.
2. Where else would the unused materials go? After these 60m towers are delivered to the Mudgee Tip then where would they go?
3. How many towers would be removed? (The map indicates 10.)
4. Is the Mudgee Waste Management Facility capable of handling 9 or 10 x 60m towers, bundles of cable, concrete footings, and other waste.
5. Is the Lue Road capable of handling the trucks needed to transport this huge amount of

waste. The equipment list states that 5 semi-trailers will be used for this job. Bowdens predicts 6 laden heavy vehicles every day would be used for this task.

## **6. Employment**

The Amended Report states “An estimated three light vehicles would originate from the east and travel through Lue and the relocated Maloneys Road”.

1. LAG requests clarification of this figure,
2. Is it accurate that during 8-10 months only 3 people from Lue, Rylstone and Kandos will be employed by Bowdens. The numbers in the Amendment Report (on Page 7) regarding employment, travel to and from the work site vary.
3. **LAG requests confirmation of the number of people to be employed at this mine site and what is the consequence to Bowdens if those stated jobs do not eventuate.**
4. What is the definition of a FIFO worker? Are the senior management, and the board of this company FIFO workers?
5. Why does the CEO of Bowdens continue to list his address at Lue when he resides in Bellevue Hill in Sydney’s Eastern Suburbs.

## **7. Property Management and Tourism**

People associated with Bowdens own and manage the historic Lue Hotel and adjacent buildings. The tenant has been removed from one building. These buildings are in a very dilapidated state and bookings are accepted and patrons are served while having limited working bathroom facilities.

The fences on their properties are in a poor condition and are not stock proof.

In the Submission Report Bowdens have expressed a desire to welcome tourists to their site. Are they aware that these visitors and all workers on the site would be required to wear PPE.

## **8. Agricultural Land Capability**

The Agricultural Impact Statement was prepared by RW Corkery, is not independent, and has not considered any surrounding farmland whether BSAL or not. It has not considered the immediate neighbours, nor has it considered how the taking of over 1700 megalitres from the valley will affect other water users.

An updated Agricultural Impact Statement is required to indicate the impacts the project will have on surrounding agricultural operations due to increased water use.

## **9. Bushfire Impact**

Submission Report Appendix 5 is a very good example of the approach by Bowdens in presenting information to the public.

This assessment of the Bushfire Impact Assessment of Matters of National Environmental Significance is very nicely formatted, pretty colours and nice font but is lacking in facts. A paragraph from Appendix 5 is copied below and it is noted that the location does not include the proximity to Lue. The project is 2 kms from Lue.

“ 2. Description of the project

2.1 Project overview The Project is located approximately 26 kilometres (km) east of Mudgee, New South Wales (Figure 1).

The Project comprises seven principal components:

1. A main open cut pit and two satellite open cut pits collectively covering up to approximately 52 hectares.
2. A processing plant and related infrastructure covering approximately 22 hectares.
3. A waste rock emplacement (WRE) covering approximately 77 hectares.
4. A low-grade ore stockpile covering approximately 14 hectares (9 hectares of which overlaps the WRE).
5. An oxide ore stockpile covering 8 hectares.
6. A tailings storage facility (TSF) covering approximately 117 hectares.
7. A southern barrier to provide visual and acoustic protection to properties south of the Mine Site covering approximately 32 hectares.

The above components would be supported by a range of on-site and off-site infrastructure. The on-site infrastructure comprises haul roads, water management structures, power/water reticulation, workshops, stores, compounds and offices/amenities. The off-site infrastructure comprises a relocated section of Maloneys Road (including a new railway bridge crossing and new crossing of Lawsons Creek) and a water supply pipeline for the delivery of water from the Ulan coalfields area.

The total impact area (subject land) of the Project would be approximately 495.67 hectares of which approximately 381.84 hectares is native vegetation. Of this native vegetation, 147.82 ha qualifies as EPBC listed Box gum woodland TEC (EnviroKey 2021)."

The relocation of the Transmission Line is not listed as a component of the project even though Bowdens have stated that its relocation is vital to the viability of the project.

This Bushfire Assessment fails to consider in its assessment

1. The proximity to Lue
2. The location and presence of a 500kV Transmission Line
3. The location of the new power supply line (not in EIS)
4. The amounts of explosives on site and their proximity to the items being assessed
5. The amounts of fuel on site and their proximity to the items of national significance
6. The amounts of inflammable materials on site and their proximity to the items being assessed.
7. The amounts of Sulphuric Acid on site and its extremely corrosive nature.

LAG insists Bowdens provide an updated Bushfire Assessment for the project as well as an updated list of machinery that includes vehicles required for bushfire protection and control.

## **10. Environment**

The Amendment Report (page 17) states

"No threatened flora and fauna or listed migratory species were identified in vegetation within the proposed easement for the 500kV transmission line, despite comprehensive surveys. The outcomes of field surveys for flora and fauna for the Project are presented in Figure 6.2." Figure 6.2 can be found in the Amendment Report (page 18).

It is the responsibility of the DPE to determine the accuracy of this statement but it should be noted that the Transmission Line Corridor is 70 metres wide and 3.5 km long. There is no cleared land identified in Figure 6.2 and the new Transmission Line route is heavily wooded and very rugged. Even when driving along Maloneys Road adjacent to the Transmission Line large numbers of kangaroos can be seen. It is unrealistic to expect that no koalas or other threatened species are found in the easement corridor as they have been found adjacent to the Transmission Line.

It is stated by Bowdens in the Submission Report that 2 years is not long enough to amend and update information provided in the EIS, the Amendment Report and the Submission Report. Individuals opposed to this project have 14 days to provide a submission to the DPIE and in documents so full of contradictions, omissions, typographical errors, and other material and over 2000 pages (not including the EIS) of exaggerated, overstated or understated comments and statements, as well as 1504 supporting submissions, Bowdens are correct 2 years would not be sufficient.

This is not an environmentally sound project.

Bowdens are formally requested to provide the following queries -

Please see highlighted questions that have not been responded to.

1. reissue the Submission report with a proper analysis of unique submissions
2. Provide accurate maps of the project location showing its proximity to Lue in order to avoid a legal action from shareholders and other investors
3. Provide evidence of payments made to any employees who are also local councillors
4. Provide accurate plans, costings and construction time of the following components
  - a. Transmission Line
  - b. Maloneys Road construction,
  - c. Maloneys Road railway overbridge construction
  - d. Maloneys Road Lawsons creek crossing
  - e. Tailings Dam
5. Provide evidence that all required water entitlements and licences are held by Bowdens
6. Provide a list of all sponsorships and amounts donated to each sporting group and event and organisation and person
7. Provide evidence that all land within the mine-site is owned by Bowdens
8. Provide proper responses to all submissions
9. Respond to all EPA, NRAR and DPIE submissions
10. Respond respectfully to all submissions from Aboriginal elders and others concerned about Aboriginal sites
11. Respond respectfully to all submissions from landowners and residents in the Lue area. Accusing a group or individual opposing an environmentally dangerous project that will have a great adverse effect on all land, properties and residences of providing misinformation and bullying is disrespectful and untrue. It is a very poor attempt to discredit reports and material provided by very well regarded professionals.
12. Ensure Bowdens website is up to date with an accurate map of the mine site and its location and its proximity to homes and properties in order to avoid legal action by shareholders and investors
13. Ensure fencing and other farm management tasks are performed as they are advertised on the Bowdens website
14. Correct all false or misleading statements found in the Amendment Report and the Submission Report, the EIS Summary Booklet and Media Releases.
15. Please publish a full page retraction of the Media Release published 23 July 2021 in the Mudgee Guardian
16. Provide a written apology to the person in Rylstone who felt intimidated by the Rylstone newsagent, Australia Post representative and Bowdens employee. (I'm sure the councillor in question knows who he has intimidated)

17. Please provide a high level report on the Cadia Tailings Dam failure and its effects on the people, land, water and environment around Cadia with reference to the Bowdens Tailings Storage Facility.
18. Please provide a disaster management plan should the tailings dam fail or overflow or spill with particular reference to the road that will be used should Maloneys Road be blocked with debris, how many vehicles will pass through Lue, how much contaminated dust will be released into air, how much contaminated material will be released into the surrounding land and any other relevant information for nearby and downstream residents.
19. Provide a Water Management Plan
20. Provide a Compensation Plan in the event of spill or depletion of the water table to a level below which other licence holders are able to pump

## 11. Koalas

Lue Action Group considers that the proponent SVL has only made the most minimal and cursory attempts to accurately record the true number of an Endangered Species (Koala) within the footprint of the proposed project and the surrounding area.

A perusal of the EIS put on public display in 2020 indicates that there were several references to Koalas, specifically conservation and management of natural vegetation that provides habitat for Koalas. (SEPP KOALA HABITAT PROTECTION 2019).

7.7 The EIS states that “Local Councils listed under Schedule 1 of the SEPP must consider the APPROVED KOALA MANAGEMENT PLAN for the land. The BAR footprint is located within the North West Slopes Koala Management Area {KMA} and currently ***(in June 2020 when the EIS went on public display- our words)*** no Koala Management Plan is present for the KMA. (reference 9a-115. 117/3)

Lue Action Group considers this to be a serious failure to properly consider the serious nature of the threat to this endangered species on several levels.

- The MWRC area has been included within an irrelevant geographical grouping called the North West Slopes. Clearly, Lue and Mudgee are geographically located within the Central Tablelands. Lue Action Group questions why an area with significant Koala populations is not even seen as important enough to be considered its own unique environment containing critical Koala habitat.
- No Koala Management Plan exists for the North West Slopes KMA.
- MWRC (as of May 2022) has still not fulfilled its obligation to develop and implement a Koala Management Plan.
- A SVL representative at a recent Bowdens CCC (during 2021) stated that “SVL is not compelled to produce a Koala Management Plan”.

The 2020 EIS further stated that “consideration of the Koala SEPP is required” and that SVL research had “confirmed the presence of Koalas based on two recent records”. However, the document then went on to say “In exercising any functions of the previous Koala SEPP (SEPP 44, now repealed) a Council must take into consideration, given that SEPP is of potential relevance to the Bowdens Silver Project. However, it is understood the SEPP 44 **does not apply to SSD projects** (our emphasis) under the FBA. It is unclear if the KOALA SEPP applies to SSD projects under the FBA”. Lue Action group desires clarification on these questions

- What SEPP, if any, applies to Koala Management on the Bowdens SSD?



- Is Bowdens Silver now required to develop a Koala Management Plan, given that the number of documented Koala sightings within the proposed development area has now risen to 6 with a further 3 sightings adjacent to or within SVL holdings and reported by members of the public?  
(Bowdens CCC Presentation, Aden, Mudgee. 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.
- Community Koala Sightings. Point 2 should also include official recognition that there have been 20 recorded, documented and in most cases, photographed Koala sightings within 20 kilometres of the proposed mine site. Several of these occurred prior to the release of the EIS but their existence is not recorded in the EIS.

Further to the above, the EIS states that “Koala has been recorded twice within the Study Area (Page 8 of 12). The species has also been previously recorded in the locality. (Vol 3\_Part 9a\_Bio). Two Koala records are known from the Study Area, both of which are either within or directly adjacent to the BAR footprint.

1<sup>st</sup> sighting Envirokey Field Survey Dec 2016 (8.12.2006). Additional searches were made of the immediate and wider area for both further individuals and for scats **without success** (our emphasis).

2<sup>nd</sup> Single Koala Pyangle Road 2.11.2017. This record was accepted as part of the BAR.

## 12. Ground and Surface Water

With the removal of the Water Supply Pipeline from Ulan to Lue there is no secure and reliable water supply for mining operations and processing. Without a secure water supply this mine is not viable and is unlikely to be successful. Presumably the EPA and DPE- Water will ensure fines for breaching the licencing rules will be a deterrent to the theft of water taking place. Most mines do not take this theft seriously, simply calling it dewatering, but it is particularly important in the Lue area because landowners and license holders are reliant on groundwater. During very dry times the creek is not a reliable source of water and many farmers and graziers rely on springs and bores.

Bowdens plan to pump 10 l/sec (litres per second) from their dewatering bores but Jacobs have tested bores in and near the mine site and their findings indicate that 5.4 l/sec or 5.0 l/sec would be more accurate. (See Jacobs p 5-77) In other words there is no evidence that Bowdens bores will sustain the pumping rates required.



A spring at a neighbouring property indicating the drought conditions on the hilly country



Lawsons Creek, on a neighbouring property downstream of the mine site, in dry times

### 13. Telecommunications

The response below is another example of avoiding an important issue. Bowdens have not responded adequately to any of Mr Combes's queries below. I would remind the reader that the towers have been relocated only 200m to the east, and in fact are still right above Lue. In any case Bowdens have not responded to the real problem in the area of the lack of telephone service. Will the existing Optus and Telstra towers handle the additional phone traffic of 320 phone users?

It should also be noted that a MWRC Councillor and Bowdens employee lives and runs his business in Rylstone. Rylstone has one of the worst telephone services in the district with little or no service at least 20% of the time. If there is limited and inadequate telephone and internet service in Rylstone what hope is there for Lue's vital telephone service.

Bowdens must respond to this important question regarding a vital service that will most likely be affected by this project and the additional telephone and internet uses who will be at Lue.

*"Another impact that I notice is absent is impacts on telecommunications. I could not find any studies on impacts to telecommunication signals. The towers will rise above*



*700m and will be right above the village of Lue. There has not been any assessment made on impacts to UHF, VHF, TV, Radio, Phone coverage etc. These communications form an integral part of Emergency Services in Lue. They are also important for normal living in Lue. Radio, TV and phone coverage is already quite poor.*

Tom Combes of Lue, NSW (Submission SE-26255508)

## **Response**

During consultation undertaken in preparation of the Project Feasibility Study detailed in Section 1.5.6 of the EIS, TransGrid advised Bowdens Silver in written correspondence dated 23 August 2017 that *“there is no engineering reason for the line realignment to be unfeasible and that network outages, constructability and design can all be managed”*. This advice was reiterated in Section 2.1 of the *Amendment Report*.

Regardless, there is no evidence that the transmission towers would influence communications whether they be UHF, VHF, TV, radio or phone coverage as they are lattice structures and not solid in the same way that placing a high rise building in these locations may influence telecommunications. The towers would not be right above Lue as expected in the submission. Review of the tower locations indicates they would be largely hidden by existing vegetation and building and would be difficult to see within Lue.”

### **14. Tailings dam failures in NSW, Orange and other places**

These photographs of tailings dam failures are a reminder to Bowdens and others of the kind of environmental disaster they are knowingly being a party to. Bowdens plan to construct a tailings dam, not a coal mine tailings dam but a silver & lead mine tailings dam, that will contain acid, cyanide, arsenic, lead, zinc, and many other poisons and hazardous chemicals dangerous to humans and animals over a watercourse and a fault line just metres from Lawsons Creek. The dam will most certainly fail because Lue is in an earthquake hazard zone, like Cadia (2018) and Newcastle (1994), and there is no back up wall or back up plan. When this dam fails it will block the access road to the mine site, poison Lawsons Creek and the aquifer (remember it is constructed on a fault line), spew its sludge and muck all over the land and the dust that remains will cause asthma and other respiratory diseases in neighbouring landowners, visitors and workers.

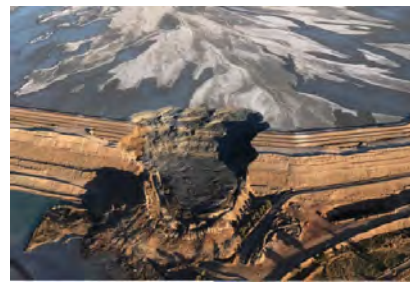
Bowdens have stated that any pollution in Lawsons Creek will be quickly diluted and therefore not cause any problems.

### **Will this still be the case now over 1700 megalites will be prevented from flowing into Lawsons Creek each year?**

No responsible person or organisation can knowingly approve a tailings dam of this size and type in the Lawsons Creek Valley, upstream from homes and farms and Mudgee’s water supply.

The Minister has a duty of care to all people who live and work in Lue and in this valley, and those who rely on the water in the valley as well as the people of Mudgee whose water supply may be poisoned.

Cadia at Orange tailings dam failure photographs below.



## 15. Social Impact

The comment below in response to a submission from a very concerned land owner is another example of statements made by Bowdens. Bowdens are proposing a 24 hour a day open cut mining operation less than 2 kms from Mr and Mrs Camerons beautiful property and one thing is certain.... there will be significant impacts and those impacts will not be enhancing Lue or the Cameron's property.

"The SIA has demonstrated an understanding of the nature of the communities in which the Project is located and has identified potential impacts of the Project on sense of community, cohesion, character, and sense of place (refer to Section 7.4.2 of the SIA). The existing Community Investment Program would be expanded during mine development and would provide opportunities to work with local community members to identify projects which may assist in facilitating a stronger sense of community throughout the life of the Project and beyond. The expectations of Mr Cameron and other community members are well known to Bowdens Silver through its comprehensive consultation program. However, it is anticipated that the environmental outcomes of the Project would not be as predicted by Mr Cameron and some others in the community, but more closely reflect the outcomes of technical assessment. In fact, it is considered that rather than being "disastrous", the Project will revitalise and enhance opportunities for the permanent residents of Lue and surrounding communities."

Bowdens acknowledges that negative social impacts would primarily be borne by residents and landholders surrounding the Mine Site and within Lue. (Table A9.1)

No targeted mitigation or enhancement strategies would reduce the negative impacts caused by this project.

## 16. Community Consultation and Representation

The comment from Bowdens below refers to the fact that a MWRC councillor is employed by Bowdens. Bowdens have made this comment previously and it should be noted that there are nine councillors on the MWRC and they vote in groups. Mr Shelley, the Bowdens employee and councillor in question is in the same voting group as the Mayor, Mr Des Kennedy. One councillor out of 9, more than 10%, can make a difference particularly when councillors vote in blocs. It is extremely concerning that MWRC accepted a figure of \$4.7 million in compensation for a project that will cause damage to the road network from Lue to Ilford, Gulgong, Rylstone, Kandos and all the district roads in between including the streets of Mudgee. There is no allocation for any damage to Lawsons Creek or the Mudgee borefield.

"It is to be reiterated that MWRC is not the consent authority for the Project and therefore the input of a single Councillor on assessment matters and Project outcomes is negligible. Responsibility for decisions relating to the grant of development consent for the Project rests with the Independent Planning Commission with assessment and recommendations provided by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment."

Recently Bowdens distributed a Newsletter regarding the Water Supply Amendment via Australia Post. The newsletter was received in many cases on the closing day submissions were to be submitted to the DPE or after that day. Many residences did not receive a copy. Members of LAG were informed at the CCC meeting held in May 2022 that the newsletter was to be distributed via the Australia Post Office in Rylstone and it was the fault of the Rylstone Post Office that this newsletter was not delivered. Please find a copy of the Water Supply Amendment Newsletter attached.

LAG requests that Bowdens provide a proper explanation for the reason Rylstone Post Office failed to deliver a document with key information regarding the Water Supply Amendment to individuals and businesses who may be directly affected by the Water Supply Amendment.

## **1. Lue Action Group Queries and Comments**

**The following Lue Action Queries were not responded to adequately**

***Failure to demonstrate a legally permissible methodology for supplying water to support its operations.***

As identified in Section 5.31.2 of the *Submissions Report*, Bowdens Silver has secured water licence entitlements that account for peak groundwater take during mining operations. In addition to its basic landholder (harvestable) rights entitlement of 180.6ML, Bowdens Silver holds the following volumetric entitlements under water access licences.

- 194ML from the Sydney Basin Murray Darling Basin Groundwater Source that is managed under the Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Murray Darling Basin Porous Rock Groundwater Sources Order, 2020.

**There is no evidence that Bowdens hold this Water Access Licence.**

- 1 480ML from the Lachlan Fold Belt Murray Darling Basin Groundwater Source - (Other) Management Zone Source that is managed under the Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Murray Darling Basin Fractured Rock Groundwater Sources Order, 2020.

**There is no evidence that Bowdens hold these Water Access Licences**

- 137ML from the Lawsons Creek Water Source - (Other) Management Zone that is managed under the Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie Bogan Unregulated and Alluvial Water Source 2012.

**At Lue water is rarely available under the conditions of the licence.**

**Bowdens have failed to demonstrate legally permissible methodology for supplying water to support its operations.** It should also be noted that if Bowdens use the 180.6 ML under their supposed harvestable rights entitlement they will not have access to any water for their farming operation. Bowdens do not hold any approvals to take the water they claim they have entitlements for.

### **“Comment(s)”**

*Council requests confirmation as to the long term impacts to the Region's water supply, and impacts downstream resulting from the open cut pit lake, which will require 133ML/year to fill over 200 years, post mining.*

### **Response**

As described in Section 5.24.18 of the *Submissions Report*, all inflow volumes to the open cut pit lake post closure would be licensed in accordance with the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy and therefore, would not impact the availability of water (water supply) to the region.

It is acknowledged that groundwater and some surface water would flow to the open cut pit lake post closure. However, this is unlikely to be 133ML per year as noted by MWRC. Once a groundwater equilibrium level is established in the lake (mostly achieved 16 years after the end of mining but up to 50 years post-mining with minor fluctuations after that time), the change in flows would be negligible and not noticeable at any private water supply.”

Bowdens do not hold the Water Access Licences that they claim they hold and groundwater licences rarely become available. In another example of Bowdens avoiding a question they take up the issue of 133 ML / year rather than the issue of licencing or availability of the water. Even though Bowdens state they are licenced in accordance with the NSW Aquifer Interference policy that does not guarantee that they will not impact the availability of water in the region.

It is time Bowdens answer truthfully questions on the issue of water. They have for many years stated that their water dealings are confidential but it is now revealed that they have not and do not hold the Water Access Licences they claim they hold. It is fairly obvious that they never intended to build a pipeline from Ulan to Lue as they had not held any meaningful discussions with either coal mine or properly investigated the proposed route to Ulan.

Water has always been and will always be one of the major stumbling blocks for this ill-conceived and poorly planned project. There is simply not enough water in the Lawson Creek Valley to sustain a project such as this.

## **2. Road Use**

The statement from Bowdens below is in response to a submission from J Bentivoglio, a very well respected person in the community.

“Ms Bentivoglio’s claim of “B double trucks lining the road” is exaggerated and incorrect. It is also noted that the majority of additional traffic would be light vehicles rather than trucks. Unlike bulk commodity operations such as coal mines and quarries, the ore concentrate that would be produced represents a low volume of material. During operations, it is expected that the Project would generate approximately 10 heavy vehicle (truck) movements and 16 bus movements per day on Lue Road west of Lue. Based on traffic surveys in 2017, Lue Road west of Lue currently has a total daily traffic level of 877 vehicles of which 125 are heavy vehicles (trucks). Based on these survey results, an additional 10 trucks per day is not considered a significant increase and would therefore not “remove the aesthetics of the landscape”.

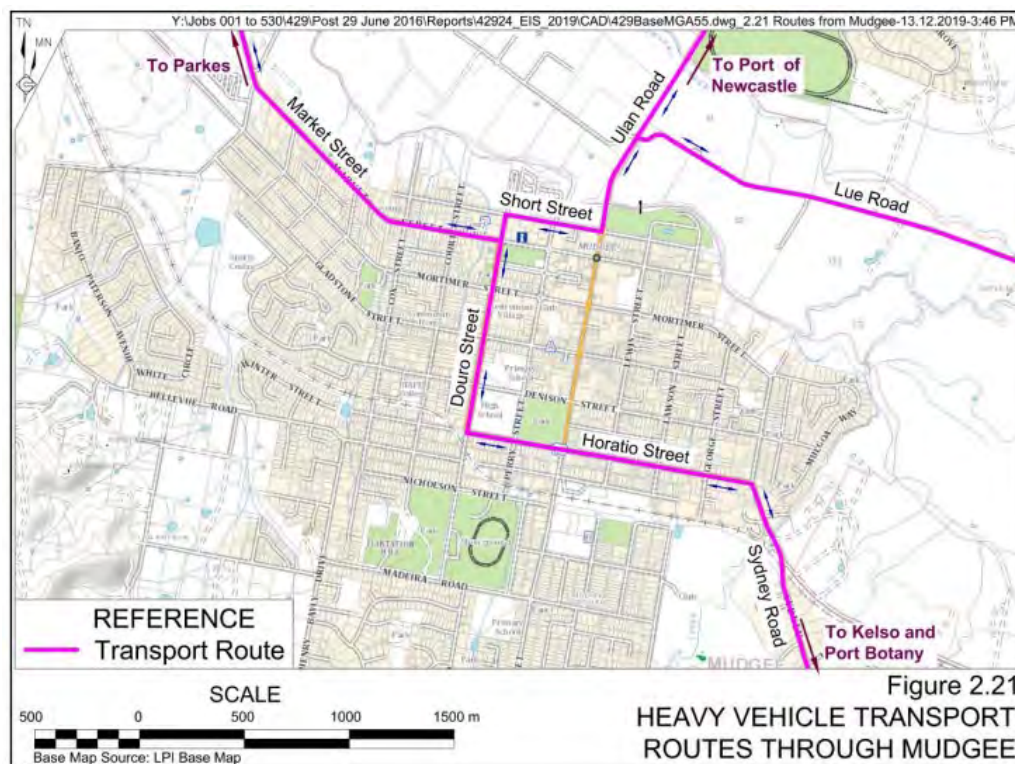
Considering the above, Bowdens Silver considers that the Project would not substantially change the nature of the traffic environment on Lue Road and therefore the drive from Mudgee to Monivae.”

It is easy to determine that Bowdens and Mrs Bentivoglio do not see eye to eye. It would be preferable, from a community consultation perspective, and as basic good manners, if Bowdens addressed the fact that there will be an increase of at least 10 trucks per day or more on an already challenged road and responded respectfully to an important tourist operator and producer of world renowned organic olive oil. Bowdens are unable to predict where or when a truck driver will stop or wait or whether or not one driver or more might like to park on the side of the road. It is clear that Bowdens have little or no respect for existing residents and businesses in the area and have no intention of modifying their own behaviour or plans to reduce the impact on others.

Significant is a word Bowdens have used on many occasions in contexts where the impacts would be only slightly less than significant. Any impact greater than no impact is more than the community

should tolerate. An almost significant increase in any traffic is far more than other road users should tolerate.

All heavy vehicles including B-double trucks transporting concentrated ore to Newcastle, Port Botany, Bathurst or Port Pirie will travel through Mudgee. The poisonous ore will be contained at all times. All materials for the construction of the 500kV Transmission Line, the 66kV powerline, 2 bridges, the tailings storage facility, the processing plant and other construction at the Bowdens site will be transported through Mudgee. All materials including explosives, cyanide, arsenic and other materials required to mine and process lead, zinc and silver will be transported through Mudgee. During construction there will be up to 22 truck movements per hour.



### 3. Landowners

According to Table A6.3 there are over 50 privately owned residences in Lue, and according to Table A6.1 there are 95 landholdings surrounding Lue, a total of 145 landowners in Lue.

Please see the following figures, A1-4 and A1-5, rarely seen in material available to the public.

LAG respectfully requests that all these properties are assessed and considered in all assessments and reports included in the EIS and its amendments.

It should also be noted that properties outside the areas shown on these maps are also affected by this project, particularly those to the west and downstream of the mine site. Please see in the photograph below the rural views that will be spoilt by the mine site.



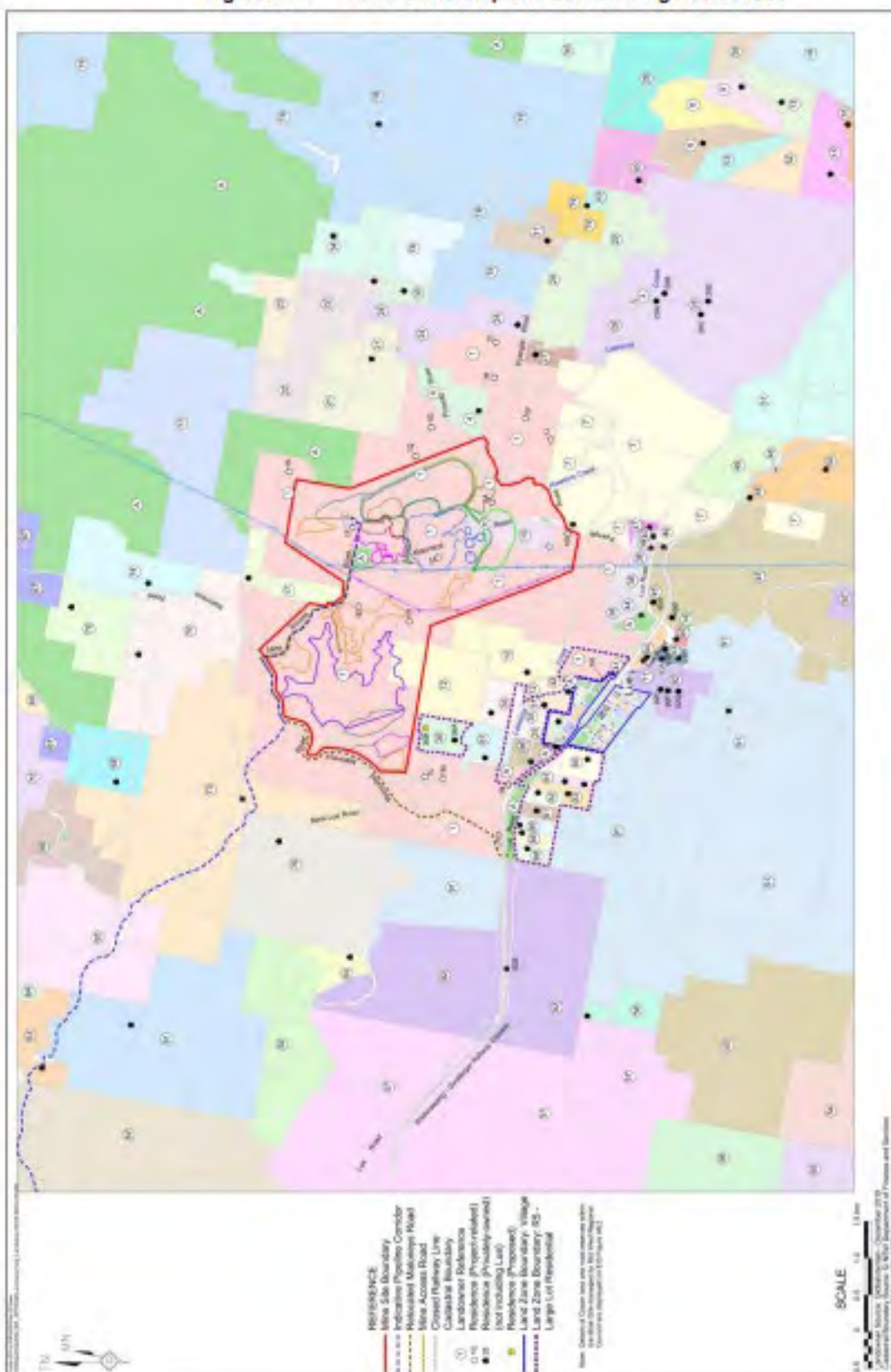
LAG also respectfully requests that all submissions from landowners and residents in Lue and surrounds are responded to fully and properly. A carefully selected paragraph in a submission used as a representative comment is not always representative of all comments or queries.



**Figure A1-5 Land Ownership (Lue)**



**Figure A1-4 Land Ownership and Surrounding Residences**





#### 4. Water Supply Amendment Submissions

The period for making a submission in response to the Water Supply Amendment closed on 7 April 2022 after being on exhibition for 14 days.

During that period 261 submissions were received, 33 supporting the project and 217 opposing the project. Of those 217 opposing submissions 24 were from Lue and 49 were local. 2 Lue residents made supporting submissions.

The table below lists the most recent 68 supporting submissions on the DPE website as it is not possible for LAG to determine which were received during the submission period. As some submissions mention the amendment it is assumed they refer to either the Transmission Line Amendment or the Water Supply Amendment and have been included on that basis.

Those submissions with an \* are from known Bowdens employees or family members who are employed by Bowdens.

	Name	Address	Comment	
1	Lue Hotel	Lue	Retail, high unemployment	*
2	Name Withheld	Pyangle		
3	Name Withheld	Pyangle		
4	Name withheld	Rylstone		
5	Paul Brydon	Narromine		
6	Kiah Mallender	Mudgee		
7	Adam Rovella	Elanora		
8	Name withheld	Glen Alice		
9	Kaleb Pitt	Gulgong		
10	Name withheld	Carcalgong		
11	Mick Monro	Lue		
12	Madison Hayes	Mudgee		
13	Nic Brownhill	Cottesloe WA		
14	Andrew Todd	Claremont WA		
15	Barry Muir	East Warburton VIC		
16	Esperanza Muir	East Warburton VIC		
17	Ian Lowe	Glenvale QLD		
18	Damien Koerber	North Avoca NSW		
19	Naomi Turner	Mudgee		
20	Name withheld	Scarborough WA		
21	Name withheld	Mount Claremont WA		
22	Name withheld	Bayswater WA		
23	Name withheld	Bayswater WA		
24	Name withheld	East Victoria Park WA		
25	Name withheld	Claremont WA		
26	Name withheld	Burradoo NSW		
27	Name withheld	Middle Ridge QLD		
28	Name withheld	Rylstone		
29	Name withheld	Cremorne NSW	Existing mines 25-45 mins from Mudgee	
30	Name withheld	South Perth WA		
31	Jeong Lee	East Perth WA		
32	Name withheld	Figtree		
33	Name withheld	Figtree		
34	Name withheld	Castle Hill NSW		
35	Name withheld	Port Kembla		

36	Name withheld	Home Rule		
37	Marlene Gleeson	Kandos		
38	Name withheld	Mudgee		
39	Anna Yeates	Mudgee		*
40	Thomas Purcell	Mudgee		*
41	Name withheld	Mudgee		
42	Name withheld	Mudgee		
43	Matthew Butterworth	Grattai		
44	Simon Parmiter	Mudgee		
45	Lucy Stuart	Mudgee		
46	Anthony McClure	Lue / Bellevue Hill		*
47	Sophia Louison	Mudgee		
48	Christina Granger	Wembley WA		
49	Mathew Gouldstone	Mudgee		
50	Aaron Gleeson	Kandos		
51	Joel Leonard	Cudgegong		*
52	David Biggs	Leura NSW		*
53	Darren Holden	Fremantle NSW		
54	Liam Robinson	Lue		
56	Name withheld	Camboon		
57	Leonard Leary	Oakville NSW		
58	Peter Shelley	Rylstone		*
59	Doreen Shelley	Rylstone		*
60	Joaquim Cardoso	Yangeup WA		
61	Michelle Cardoso	Yangeup WA		
62	Name withheld	Kudla WA		
63	Name withheld	Kudla WA		
64	Name withheld	Rylstone		
65	Name withheld	Charbon		
66	Name withheld	Clandulla		
67	Name withheld	Figtree NSW		
68	Name withheld	St Ives NSW		

LAG cannot disagree with those supporting submissions from mining enthusiasts from WA and other places as our country and especially WA has received great benefits from mining, although not silver mining.

When investors purchased this project from Kingsgate in 2016 they neglected to consider the location of the silver deposit, less than 4 hours from Sydney, without adequate road infrastructure, no secure water supply and no power supply, near the Wollommi National Park and 2 kms from Lue. The investors were led to believe that Lue was declining and they could easily remove all opposition to the mine. Even though those same investors personally knew Lue residents, landowners and visitors to Lue and had inside knowledge about the district they neglected to investigate.

LAG would like to respectfully respond to all Bowdens supporters. The main themes and concerns of supporting Water Supply Amendment submissions were employment and the proposed jobs provided by the project, the environmental soundness of the mine, royalties available to the state, that silver is used manufacturing solar panels, medical equipment and other vital products.

#### **a. Lue**

According to the 2006 census the population of Lue was 815. Tables A1.4 and A1.5 found in the Landowners section of this document and in the EIS indicate the locations of homes and properties in Lue. There are 95 properties near Lue (as assessed by Bowdens) and 45 properties in Lue. A total of 140 landowners will be impacted physically or visually by Bowdens operations. Many more if the power line route is considered. Not all properties are built upon but under MWRC zoning most are able to be built upon. If MWRC had intended for mining to take place in this area it would have zoned this area appropriately. Mining is incompatible with almost any other human endeavour. Summaries, newsletters and other information available to the public contain little information regarding the location of homes and properties in relation to the mine site. It is not until Page 75 of the Water Supply Amendment Report that a map can be found showing homes.

Even the most ardent Bowdens supporter must surely respect other landowners and their properties.

Lue is 26 kilometres from Mudgee and Mudgee will suffer few ill-effects from this project other than increased heavy vehicles and traffic through the town and the future impact on its bore field and town water supply.

Lue is located on the Lue Road between Mudgee and Rylstone. Currently the region is experiencing a tourism boom. Visitors mainly come to Lue to experience its unspoilt beauty and to visit the popular Lue Pottery, amongst other things. The submission from the Manager of the Lue Hotel states the hotel is the only retail business in Lue. While a hotel is more usually called a hospitality business it is not the only retail business or hospitality business in Lue.

The Lue Hotel Manager makes many other claims including “unemployment is very high in the area”.

Many Lue residents no longer frequent the Lue Hotel due to the ongoing conflict with Bowdens and while the Lue Hotel used to be the “hub” of the community it was never the heart of the community, being a hotel and selling alcohol, and certainly is neither the hub nor the heart at the present time.

It is unfortunate the Lue Hotel has not reaped the rewards of the current tourism boom and puzzling given the number of visitors who come to Lue each week. The other tourism businesses in Lue are extremely busy and operating at maximum capacity. Most tourism businesses in Lue are opposed to the proposed mine due to impacts from noise, visual pollution, traffic, excessive water use and environmental as well as Aboriginal cultural concerns and the mine site’s close proximity to businesses, homes and rural properties. Current activities in Lue are incompatible with mining.

#### **b. Unemployment**

LAG understands how important jobs are in the bush and particularly in Rylstone and Kandos. While Bowdens promises up to 320 jobs there is no guarantee that they will provide these jobs or where the employees will come from. Currently the region is in the midst of a tourism boom with large numbers of visitors to all the towns in the region. Unemployment is low with job vacancies in retail, tourism, aged care, agriculture and other industries. Businesses and private individuals in Lue have positions available but are unable to fill those positions.

#### **c. Economic Benefits**

In NSW the net economic benefit of the project (see paragraph 7.6.3.3 of Water Supply Amendment Report) is \$44M and \$146M including employment benefits. For the purposes of this analysis LAG has assumed a workforce of 200. With an employment benefit of \$102M over the life of the project, 16.5 years, the employment benefit per year would be about \$6.2M. Employees could expect to

receive \$30,909 each.

The Net Economic Benefit of \$44M to NSW is calculated to be \$2.7M per year.

#### **d. Environmental Impacts**

This photograph taken from a property (Property 91) overlooking Lue and the mine site shows the heavily wooded area to the north of the cleared farmland that will be cleared. 381 hectares of bushland and forest will be cleared resulting in impacts to native flora and fauna, including endangered Box Woodland as well as Koalas, Squirrel Gliders, Regent Honeyeater, Silky Swainsonia Pea, Small Purple Pea and Large-eared Pied Bat. Not only are these endangered and threatened species impacted but other native animals such as echidnas, lyre birds, wallabies and Eastern Grey Kangaroos are found in large numbers in the area.



Bowdens intend for the water supply for the mine site to come entirely from the site. Lawsons Creek flows from the east (right of the photo) to the west and is fed by rainfall, ground water and springs. Some farms and homes pump from the creek but most properties use a combination of bore water and rainwater as Lue does not have town water. The EIS states that groundwater has a high risk of being impacted by the project. While the Water Supply Amendment Report has reported the removal of the pipeline from Ulan to Lue from the project and thus prevented damage caused by the construction of the pipeline it means the mine site will be entirely reliant on groundwater. There will be times when there will be sufficient rainfall to fill dams and supplement groundwater but to rely on surface water in an important project such as this leaves Bowdens at risk of shutdown. All other water users at Lue and on Lawsons Creek will be impacted. Bowdens state that they have the Water Access Licences to enable them to take 1040 megalitres (1040 million litres) of groundwater each year but local water users have found that these amounts of water are not available to be pumped. Impacts to the water supply in the area have been calculated using computer modelling but it has been found that Bowdens have used rainfall data from Mudgee and Nullo Mountain rather than Lue. Farmers in the area have rainfall records for at least a hundred years that does not match with the data Bowdens have used. The reason this is a problem is that the modelling of the impacts in Lawsons Creek will be inaccurate and understated.

Farmers and landowners downstream who use creek water for stock and domestic uses as well as irrigation are very concerned that the creek will be impacted. The report states that Lawsons Creek will decrease by 2.2% or lose 189ML per year.

The submission from Anthony McClure the CEO of Bowdens and resident of Bellevue Hill not Lue states

*"We are very pleased that the latest technical updates confirm that less water will be required for our operations. The water pipeline, which was to bring water from the Ulan area, has now been removed from the application and greater water recycling onsite together with other modifications means the project will be self-sufficient. All of our water requirements are fully licenced. Our objective of limited affects to environmental flows and not competing with agriculture for water resources continues."*

Although Mr McClure is the CEO of Bowdens he may not be aware that evidence provided by landowners and water users indicates that the groundwater and surface water required for the project is most likely not available and agricultural and other users will be impacted. The EIS does not provide a Water Management Plan or any mitigating measures to prevent affects and impacts to environmental or any other flows in Lawsons Creek. While Mr McClure states the water requirements are fully licenced there is no evidence to support this claim or that the conditions of those licenses will be complied with.

LAG would like to remind Mr McClure that any member of LAG is available to discuss any and all matters including updates to the data that has been used in the EIS or any amendments to the project prior to their public exhibition. The Community Consultative Committee has not been an open or consultative forum as regards water, water licenses, water use or water supply. The minutes available on the Bowdens website show that Mr McClure failed to advise the CCC in matters regarding water, gave incorrect information to the CCC in response to questions about the water supply pipeline and intended water sources and failed to head any advice given freely by members of the CCC as regards the water supply pipeline, groundwater and surface water availability and rainfall at Lue. The Bowdens website, which Mr McClure mentions in his submission is not up to date, contains inaccurate or is missing information and makes claims that have not been fulfilled. The "community" link or tab has two photographs of the main street of Mudgee and no photographs of Lue.

The Bowdens website does not provide a copy of the EIS or the amendments but rather has Newsletters and other material that are not accurate.

Mr McClure states there are 25 local people employed while the Bowdens website states there 20 employees while only listing 8.

In response to a question from a community member of the CCC enquiring about water sources the following response has been received from Bowdens. See the link below for responses to outstanding questions from members of the CCC.

*"The Lawsons Creek Valley is for the purpose of this response considered to cover the Lawsons Creek Catchment. It is important to recognise that the Project would not directly source any water from Lawsons Creek. In fact, arrangements have been made to construct a water supply pipeline to avoid the need to use water from local sources in this manner."*

[201120 BSPCCC-Questions-on-Notice-Register.pdf \(bowdenssilver.com.au\)](http://bowdenssilver.com.au/201120_BSPCCC-Questions-on-Notice-Register.pdf)

Mr McClure in his submission below fails to acknowledge that this project will adversely impact an area of 2850 hectares, with much of it unable to be used for farmland due to lack of water, much of it not rehabilitated being the mine pit, the Tailings Storage Facility, the Waste Rock Embankment, polluting and contaminating with Acid Mine Drainage and lead poisoning forever.

For a distance of at least 2 kms and more likely over 5 kms from the mine site groundwater users will be impacted and every water user in the Lawson Creek valley will be impacted in one way or another for at least 30 kms downstream of Lue.

Over 140 landowners will be physically and visually impacted with their health and the health of their livestock at risk, their water at risk of being contaminated and unavailable and their land polluted. Noise, water, dust, light and visual pollution, lead dust, dust from the Tailings Dam, dust from the site, dust from trucks and vehicles and not only will water be contaminated but the water table will also be reduced and less water will be available.

This project does not offer any benefits or enhancements to the environment. This project does not offer any benefits to the social and physical wellbeing of any resident or visitor or any land in or around Lue. This lack of benefits or enhancements is guaranteed. What is not guaranteed is employment for 200 – 320 workers, royalties to the NSW Government or any other economic benefit to shareholders or anyone else or any other claims and promises made by Bowdens, SVL or anyone associated with these companies as regards economic benefits. LAG challenges the concept of an “environmentally sound silver mine”, particularly when lead is being mined in a much greater percentage than silver, and lead is dangerous to health. See paragraph f. Mining. Approximately 130,000 tonnes of zinc, (57.73%) 95,000 tonnes of lead (42.19%) and 178.6 tonnes of silver (0.08%) are proposed to be mined. The lack of rehabilitation, impacts on endangered and threatened species, clear felling of bushland and impacts on water are further reasons why this project is not environmentally sound.

See Mr McLures submission below. LAG has not found any evidence to support Mr McClures claims.

“Anthony McClure

#### Support

LUE , New South Wales

Message

I am honoured to be part of the team presenting the Bowdens Silver Project for development.

Since the submission of our Environmental Impact Statement, our work has continued to enhance this State Significant development. The quality of work completed by the Bowdens Silver team along with many independent professionals has conclusively demonstrated a robust, responsible and environmentally sound silver mine.”

#### e. Rehabilitation

Following the mine closure the site will not be fully rehabilitated. In other words it will not be returned to bushland. The following components will remain after mine closure (see EIS page 2-91)

- Waste Rock Embankment – 77 ha, 100m high and taller than surrounding hills and containing Potentially Acid Bearing Rock
- Leachate Dam
- Oxide Ore Pile – 8 ha
- Tailings Storage Facility – 117 ha with a 50 m wall, any water falling on the surface would drain off into the creek
- Mine – Pit – 53 ha will remain and filled with water unable to be used for recreation and although the water will evaporate it will refill.
- There is no plan for rehabilitation of roads or dams

Submissions from Bowdens employees including Thomas Purcell and Anna Yeates supporting the project while praising Bowdens for reducing their environmental impact must be aware of the detrimental environmental impacts of the mine site.

#### f. Mining

Zinc, Lead and Silver will be mined at Lue. Approximately 130,000 tonnes of zinc, 95,000 tonnes of



lead and 6.3 million ounces or 178.6 tonnes of silver. Obviously this project is a lead or zinc mine rather than a silver mine. A small percentage of silver not a small percentage of lead and zinc as stated in the Scoping Report for the Water Supply Pipeline on page v “Bowdens Silver Pty Ltd (Bowdens Silver) proposes to construct and operate an open cut mine to extract and process ore containing silver and small percentages of zinc and lead.” The price of silver is volatile, and although silver is used in solar panels and some technologies, it can easily be replaced with copper which has only 5% less conductivity than silver and is significantly cheaper and more environmentally friendly to mine.

### **Lead is dangerous to health and particularly children’s health.**

The submission below from David Biggs from Leura highlights the need for mining and silver mining. This submission has failed to consider more than 150 landowners in and near Lue who will be impacted visually and physically by this mine. It also fails to consider threatened and endangered native species that will be impacted as well as Aboriginal Heritage impacts. While Bowdens may be acting in good faith, reports provided to them contain outdated and other data that varies considerably from the data available from Lue landowners and others. In fact the Lawson Creek flow data used is collected from the Cudgegong River in a different catchment area. Mr Biggs is quite right not mentioning solar panels in his submission because 20% of world silver production is used in solar panels. Should the price of silver rise manufacturers of solar panels will replace silver with copper which is only 5% less conductive, much cheaper, more abundant and safer to mine. The Australian Renewable Energy Agency is funding Australian solar panels that use copper instead of silver. Analysts predict the demand for silver will decline not increase in the future.

*“David Biggs*

#### **Support**

*LEURA , New South Wales*

#### *Message*

*As a community member, employee and shareholder, the amendments to the project could only be viewed in a positive light.*

*Clearly the company is acting in good faith with interlocutors removing and adjusting visual and physical impacts, while also continuing to optimise outcomes related to water. In short removal of infrastructure has reduced the impacts under assessment. Asides from the changes proposed in the amendment the changing and uncertain geopolitical climate has highlighted that dependence on global supply chains is fraught with risk. Globally there is an accelerating shift from fossil fuels to renewables that will require additional silver production to electrify all parts of our and other societies. For example two ounces of silver are in every Tesla, of which it is proposed to produced multiple millions in the coming years and globally some 55 million ounces is currently used in electric vehicle production, not to mention that consumed in solar panels. This material should be sourced from a first world jurisdiction where corruption is minimal and proper environmental controls are enforced; not approving such projects merely shifts the responsibility from the nations and states who consume it. Surely a state and a nation wishing to persist and thrive locally or globally, should look to build a functioning society over the short and long term. In the longer term Mudgee and the surrounding LGA undoubtably draw great benefit from coal mining and there looms the end of an industry, as more efficient methods of energy production and reducing agents in steel production are utilised. Regional economic drivers such as mining unless approved by the state today will be absent tomorrow.”*

### **The Amendments**

The Transmission Line Amendment (164 pages) was required because Transgrid who owns the infrastructure requested that the removal and rebuilding of the transmission line be included in the EIS thus giving the community and others the opportunity to make comments.

The Water Supply Amendment (132 pages plus 10 Appendixes) was required because Bowdens removed the external water supply from the project due to licencing, environmental, planning and construction concerns and the water supply pipeline was one of three main components of this project.

The amendments should be read in conjunction with the EIS (764 pages plus 434 pages of Appendixes)

Mr Leary's submission below is an example of a supporting submission. Mr Leary comments on protecting the environment, employment opportunities and NSW revenue. Mr Leary failed to mention the impacts on landowners in Lue, impacts on the environment or the lack of rehabilitation of the site.

*"Leonard Leary*

#### **Support**

OAKVILLE , New South Wales

#### *Message*

*I have read and understand the amendments proposed. It is my opinion the amendments that have been proposed by Bowden Silver Pty Limited are positive and constructive in their content in further protecting the land and the environment. This action displays an attitude by Borden's Silver Pty.Limited in seriously endeavouring to work with the NSW government and the Mudgee district in both protecting the land whilst creating badly needed employment in the district which in turn will stimulate and benefit the economy in both the Mudgee area and as revenue provider for NSW. I support these proposals as a plan that if approved will be meritorious for all concerned."*

#### **Conclusion**

This project presents so many problems that a thoughtful, respectful and truthful response by Bowdens or RW Corkery to any submission from a member of the community who has made a genuine query or comment is challenging. Many important concerns are not responded to.

Bowdens have failed to respond to or consider the costs or wider impacts associated with the Transgrid statement *"there is no engineering reason for the line realignment to be unfeasible and that network outages, constructability and design can all be managed"*.

Bowdens have failed to respond to submissions concerned about the lack of a secure water source for this mining and processing project.

Bowdens have failed to respond to submissions concerned about the visual impacts both local and farranging.

Bowdens have failed to respond to submissions concerned about and the incompatibility of mining with existing landuse.

Bowdens have failed to respond to concerns about the provision of power to the project, the location of the powerline, engineering feasibility and the ability to access existing powerlines.

Supporting submissions have failed to provide evidence to substantiate their support of the project. Employment is the most common reason for supporting the project but there is no guarantee that these jobs will be provided, the salaries and wages predicted for those jobs are low and there is no penalty for not providing the promised jobs.

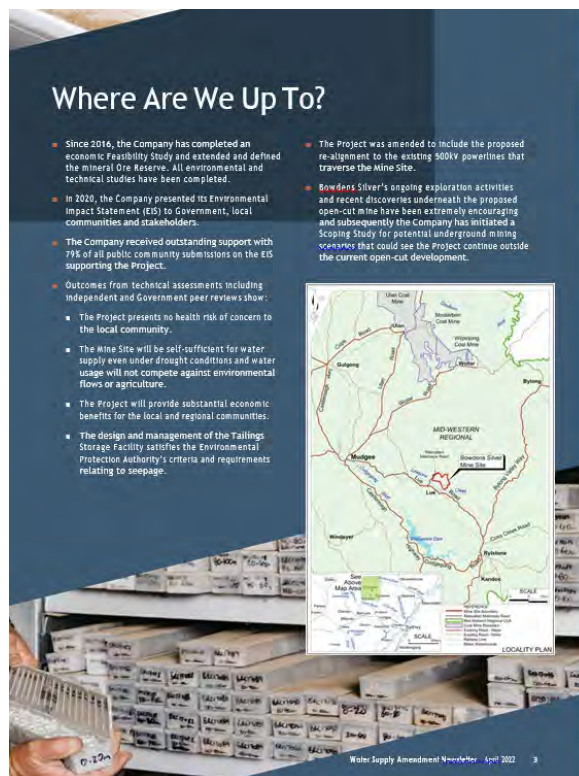
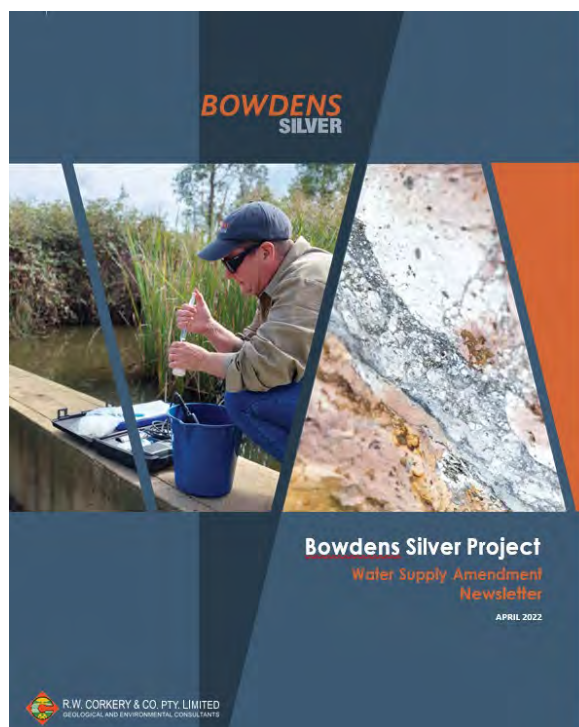


Bowdens have failed to adequately respond to concerns regarding the mitigation of impacts on health, the environment, threatened and endangered species, other water users, road users, visual, light and noise pollution, as a result of Acid Mine Drainage, climate change other businesses and land uses and existing infrastructure. Bowdens have not proven they have a social licence to undertake this project nor is this project in the public interest.

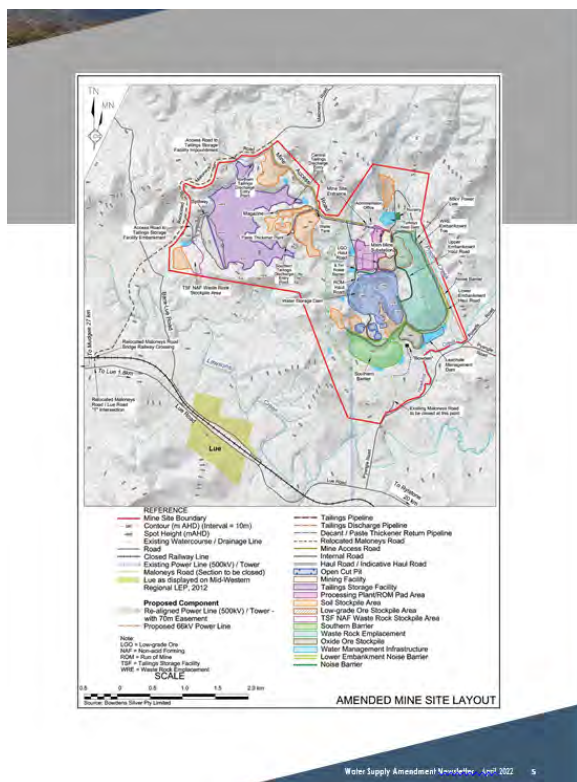
The Department of Planning and Environment is reminded that the economic benefit as outlined in the EPI - Economic Assessment is small and the number of jobs to be expected from this project is minimal with no guarantee nor any penalties for the lack of provision of those jobs. There will most likely be few jobs for unemployed people and in many cases some existing jobs won't exist in the future.

The Department of Planning and Environment has no alternative other than to recommend the refusal of the Bowdens Silver Project. With no road infrastructure, no secure water supply and no power supply this project cannot be successful.









Water Supply Amendment Newsletter April 2022 5

## Voluntary Planning Agreement with Mid-Western Regional Council

The Bowdens Silver Project has reached another significant milestone with the signing of a Voluntary Planning Agreement with Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC).

The Voluntary Planning Agreement allows for Bowdens Silver to make contributions over the duration of its proposed 16.5 year mining operations including:

- \$3.8 million in contributions towards community infrastructure to support the region.
- \$1.7 million in road maintenance contributions to be applied towards the maintenance of Lue Road and ancillary roads.

Total contributions to MWRC would exceed \$4.7 million over the duration of mining operations.

These contributions represent only one component of Bowdens Silver's commitment as a major participant in the Mid-Western region and the local community. In particular, Bowdens Silver will continue to expand its investment in local communities through its ongoing Community Investment Program. This program provides support and funding for a range of community-led initiatives in Lue, Bowden, and surrounding areas within the Mid-Western region.



Brad Cam, General Manager, MWRC and Anthony McClure, Managing Director, Bowdens Silver at the signing of the VPA

### Next Steps

Following public exhibition of the Water Supply Amendment, Bowdens Silver will review and provide responses to public and Government agency submissions received that relate to the integrated water management and supply strategy.

A Submissions Report will be provided to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment who will complete its assessment of the Project which will then be referred to the IPC for Project determination.

Bowdens Silver is committed to continuing to share information on the Project throughout this process and encourages interested community members to get in touch with us directly or seek information on the company website [www.bowdenssilver.com.au](http://www.bowdenssilver.com.au)

## 500kV Powerline Realignment

After listening to community comments, we have amended the Project to include a realignment of the existing 500kV power transmission line that traverses the Mine Site. Following a public exhibition period, a new alignment has been determined including:

- Moving the realignment of the 500kV powerlines eastwards closer to the mine site.
- Improving visual amenity outcomes for landowners to the west and southwest of the mine site by locating it at a greater distance and in some cases behind ridgelines.
- Reducing the number of towers that would need to be relocated and/or constructed.

Bowdens Silver Project



## What Is Silver Used For?

Silver is a precious metal which historically was recognized as a store of wealth for its value and aesthetic appeal and was used in jewelry, tableware and figurines. Today, silver is a highly-valued industrial metal due to it being the best electrical conductor of all metals. Some of silver's most exciting current and future uses include:

- Extensive use in solar panels for the production of renewable electricity.
- Critical component in everyday items such as mobile phones, TVs and most other electrical appliances.
- As a key element in the expanding electric vehicle (EV) industry - more silver is used in an EV compared to a regular combustion engine vehicle.
- It has a wide range of uses within the medical field including bacteria control, water purification and more recently in COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing kits.
- Wide ranging applications in high-tech fields such as computing, nano technologies, aviation, aerospace and many others.

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