



Independent Planning Commission
Suite 15.02
135 King Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Bowdens Silver significant development application (**SSD-5765**). The New South Wales Wine Industry Association (NSW Wine) supports the Mudgee Wine Association's submission and wishes to raise serious concerns on the Bowdens Lead, Zinc and Silver Mine application and EIS.

NSW Wine is the peak body representing the NSW Wine industry. It was formed in 1994 at the request of the NSW State Government to provide a single, powerful voice on grape growing and winemaking issues. The association is an advocate and conduit between industry, the NSW Government, and its wine regions, as well as representing the industry nationally and internationally.

The wine industry plays an incredibly important role in regional NSW communities. The NSW wine industry accounts for over one third of the nation's grape and wine production, contributes \$14 billion to the economy, employs over 53,000 people and is a major driver of domestic tourism and regional economies across NSW.

Mudgee has almost 1,500 hectares of vineyard planted dating back over 150 years. It produces between 6,000 and 8,000 tonnes of fruit annually generating anywhere from \$150 - \$200 million in gross revenue plus significant value-adds in production, wholesale, export, tourism, events, hospitality, and accommodation, for the region. The industry supports a strong local job market, through family-owned cellar doors and associated tourism businesses with the single second biggest employer in the region being a wine company.¹

Any threat or risk to the sustainability of the local wine industry will have significant flow-on economic effects, impact jobs and livelihoods in the region, and are disproportionate to the 300 jobs created by the proposed mine over 19 years.

We note that the applicants' royalties over 19 years to the NSW government and NSW households of \$21m and local wages and salaries of \$25m², both pale into insignificance when compared to one single year of economic value and contribution to the local economy from the wine industry, tourism, and hospitality sectors.

¹ Information from the Mudgee Wine Association

² [Bowden Silvers Mine Part 15 Economic Assessment State Significant Development No. 5765 pg15-67](#)

The Mudgee region received 826,000 visitors in 2020/21, generating approximately 930 jobs directly due to visitor spending, much of this wine tourism and cellar door related which is over three times higher than the proposed mine over its 19-year life span.

Of great concern is that nowhere in the applicants EIS agricultural and economic impact statements or cost benefit analysis are the wine, tourism and hospitality sectors mentioned, let alone their value to the regional economy properly recognised. NSW Wine is particularly concerned the cost benefit analysis does not properly consider the potential loss of farm incomes, loss of jobs and the reduction of gross regional product in the intensive agriculture/horticulture, wine industry, tourism, and hospitality sectors due to the establishment and activity of the proposed mine.

NSW Wine understands there remains unresolved concerns from local producers on the following matters:

- Planning for the mines water use is limited and hasn't demonstrated growers won't be impacted by dust.
- Local water supplies critical to wine production could be contaminated by lead dust, acid mine drainage or other pollutants.
- Fine lead dust may be absorbed through the grapes.
- Ongoing testing of grapes will be costly and onerous.

NSW Wine requests that a more robust and accurate cost benefit analysis be conducted that considers impacts on the wine, tourism and hospitality sectors and the regional economy.

We are aware local producers and growers have raised major concerns around water security and quality, acid mine drainage, the toxicity of lead and dust from the mine, impacted amenity and a diminished wine tourism brand that have failed to be properly addressed. NSW Wine supports their calls for the applicant to address these significant unresolved concerns as well as the impacts this proposal may have on the regional economy.

If more information is required, I can be contacted at exec@nswwine.com.au.

Regards



Mark Bourne, President
NSW Wine Industry Association



Matthew Jessop, Executive Officer

24 February 2023

CC: Hon. Dugald Saunders MP