Acid Mine Drainage (AMD)

Dear Commissioners

We request the IPC not approve Bowden’s toxic Lead/silver/zinc mine due to the unacceptable impact of Acid Mine Drainage into the Lawson Creek/Cudgegong River system.

The DPE conditions for consent of Bowden’s Mine states,

OBLIGATION TO MINIMISE HARM TO THE ENVIRONMENT

In addition to meeting the specific performance measures and criteria established under this consent, the Applicant must implement all reasonable and feasible measures to prevent, and if prevention is not reasonable and feasible, minimise, any material harm to the environment that may result from the construction and operation of the development, or rehabilitation of the development.

This obligation will not be met by Bowden’s due to the leakage from the Tailings dam into the groundwater system and onto Lawson Creek and the Cudgegong river .

This is an unacceptable impact on the water quality of the river system and the potential contamination of water flowing down to the Burrendong Dam.

The Cudgegong river water supplies the town of Gulgong and residents and this supply will be severely impacted by any contaminant from leakage of the tailings dam.

As noted by Craig Flavel, hydrogeologist and ground water expert the concern is;

*Concern:*

*Treatment of contaminants in the TSF is not presented in the EIS. The TSF is planned to be constructed on a fault. 1.6 ML/day of TSF leakage is planned without considering the fault risk. The planned monitoring places few controls on compliance with the design and there is no contingency plan to remediate leakage. No peer review of contamination risks has been presented.*

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