Water

Dear Commissioners

We ask you not to approve the toxic Bowden’s Lead/Silver/Zinc mine because the mine will not have enough water to run the mining and to control the toxic dust dispersal.

The DPE states in their Conditions of Consent this obligation to cause no harm, Bowden’s will not be able to meet this obligation.

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.

Under the following DPE conditions for compensatory water, Bowden’s will not have access to enough water to manage the mine, let alone the dust mitigation and therefore there will be NO clean or potable water for residents and business’ affected by this mine.

Compensatory Water Supply

1. B38.  The Applicant must provide a compensatory water supply to any landowner of privately-owned land whose rightful water supply (groundwater, surface water and/or tank water) is adversely and directly impacted (other than an impact that is minor or negligible) as a result of mining operations, in consultation with the DPE Water, and to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.
2. B39.  The burden of proof that any loss of water supply is not due to mining impacts rests with the Applicant.
3. B40.  The compensatory water supply measures must provide an alternative long-term supply of water that is equivalent, in quality and volume, to the loss attributable to the development. Equivalent water supply should be provided (at least on an interim basis) as soon as practicable after the loss is identified, unless otherwise agreed with the landowner.
4. B41.  If the Applicant and the landowner cannot agree on whether the loss of water is attributed to the development or the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the Planning Secretary for resolution.
5. B42.  If the Applicant is unable to provide an alternative long-term supply of water, then the Applicant must provide compensation to the landowner, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.

Note: The Water Management Plan is required to include trigger levels for investigating potentially adverse impacts on water supplies.

1. B43.  In the event of any complaint related to a privately-owned licensed groundwater bore which may, in the opinion of the Planning Secretary, have been adversely and directly impacted as a result of the development (other than an impact that is minor or negligible), the Applicant must, as soon as practicable, facilitate the provision of a temporary water supply, pending the outcome of any groundwater investigation and/or provision of an alternative long-term supply of water as required under condition B41, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.
2. B44.  However, conditions B38 to B42 do not apply if the Applicant has a compensatory water agreement with the owner/s of the land and the Applicant has advised the Department in writing of the terms of this agreement.

Bowden’s state they will stop mining during a drought or during water shortage, however, dust dispersal will continue day and night whilst the shutdown of the mine proceeds.

Having lived in the Lawson Creek Valley for 26years we are well aware there is not the quantity of water available to Bowden’s Mine from Lawson Creek and from bores and how Bowden’s Mine believe they can effectively mine minerals safely and mitigate toxic dust dispersal with inadequate water supplies for more than the life and rehabilitation and beyond of the mine, under these conditions, is preposterous.

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