

Bowdens Mine SVL. Application number SSD-5765. February 2023

I object strongly to the approval of this mine.

Having read the assessment of the Department of Planning and Environment, I still have grave fears about the consequences of a Silver/Lead and zinc mine in the Lue district.

I feel the Conditions of Consent that have been imposed by the DPE don't go far enough and haven't addressed all the concerns raised in the earlier submissions.

Water supply and the applicant's Water Management Plan doesn't seem to account for Climate Change. Surely averaging climate records over 130 years does not adequately insure us against extreme droughts, El Nino and tumultuous rainfall events like East Coast Lows and La Nina.

According to the DPIE website global climate models are good at predicting temperature and evaporation but not rainfall. They also predict that we will get higher temperatures and less rainfall in the future making our water supplies less secure. (nsw-climate-model-report. p11)

Bowdens' predictions for a constant source of harvestable surface water from rainfall are unrealistic.

I don't believe that Lawsons Creek can supply the water that has been allocated as water licences. The water, in dry years, is just not there. Lawson Creek water licences are unregulated. To move/purchase water licences downstream for use upstream seems unreliable as there is less water available, including the site of the proposed mine.

Will the construction of a big pit at Bowdens further accelerate the increases in local temperatures and evaporation of the water sources? We need to think about these things.

We live on a farm 10km east of Lue. Agriculture is our business. I have lived here for 42 years, my husband's family have been here since 1880.

We have 7 houses on the property. We rely on the Lawson Creek for our livestock and houses.

We fear for the contamination of this reliable water supply, being downstream of the mine. We have read about the chemicals needed to process the ore and that the TSF is designed to leak 1.6ML/day

We are worried about the effects that mining will have on the groundwater. The experts for both sides at the IPC hearing could not agree on what could happen to the groundwater. Their modelling came to different conclusions. This makes me think it's too big a risk to take to carry out such a major project in this environment of fractured rocks in a delicately balanced environment.

The uncertainty regarding the proponent's design for containment of PAF and waste storage has not been satisfactorily resolved. There is too much risk of AMD and contamination through leakage or failure of the TSF. A major fault line is on the project site.

The fact that we are being left with such potentially disastrous toxins in our catchment forever is extremely unfair. We need to do better if we want to continue to live healthy lives on this planet into the future. As was suggested at the IPC hearing, why not leave the silver where it is and extract it when a safer method is invented.

We need to protect our natural environment, the wildlife and their habitat, the box, gum woodland.

Surely we can re-cycle silver, lead and zinc.

The State Government has a duty of care to the residents of Lue, local workers, businesses, farms and others who will be exposed to dangers associated with this mine.

The safety of the Lue Road will be doubtful with 16 heavy vehicle trips/day and 156 light vehicles.

We, the community, are laden with the burden of monitoring lead, water and noise. The TSF and final void will be there forever and if the containment methods for these toxins fail, we will be receiving them into our creeks, rivers and aquifers to do irreparable damage.

Property values will decrease. Tourism will suffer.

I feel the Conditions of Consent do not adequately address the potential risks of this mine going ahead and the application for a mining licence should be refused.

Thank you for your time.