Submission opposing the Bowden silver mine.

Mining and Pollution.

The mining and processing of the Galena ore (lead sulphide) which is the predominant ore, results in contamination of soils and aquatic environments. Although there is to be some mitigation of dust it cannot be excluded. Lead sulphide is toxic to humans and animals and exposure is cumulative. It is very toxic to aquatic environments.

Additional the chalcopyrite ore (copper iron sulphide) and galena may have cadmium which could be an additional contaminant in the dust and have a cumulative affect on humans animals soils and water in the water catchment area and surrounding soils.

The use of Cyanide for ore extraction using the flotation method may result in contamination of the environment not only during processing ore but during road transport. The xanthates associated with the processing are detrimental to aquatic environments.

Tank water catchment is very likely to be affected.

The mines life is 16 years but the polluting affects will be a permanent danger to the locality and communities down stream in the Cudgegong river.

This will surely affect the health of the communities and the environment.

Transport of mining equipment and ore for refining.

The proposed transport of ore for refining at Port Pirie will increase heavy traffic through Mudgee. This will create congestion at the roundabout at Ulan road and increase traffic on the already inadequate and damaged Gulgong Wellington road.

The transport of ore to Newcastle Port via Ulan road will increase the already heavy traffic on that road. The Ulan road is already badly damaged by heavy vehicles and OSOM loads associated with mining near Ulan. Which creates havoc for light vehicles. Road edges are inadequate, in many places, to allow vehicles to pull over safely and allow passing. Daily traffic is high and hazardous, despite, regular highway patrol monitoring.

The transport of toxic chemicals, in particular cyanide for ore processing and explosives, increases risks for residents within the Midwestern Council.

Tourism in Mudgee

Mudgee and surrounds, is renowned as a tourism destination. Favoured for its environment, beauty, food and wine and scenery. Tourism is a financially beneficial industry to the area and has a lifespan beyond 16 years and is sustainable. We cannot afford to further destroy our natural environment.