

Lue Hotel and Leisure Pty Ltd



Lue NSW, 2850.

As Manager of the Lue Hotel, I am pleased to provide this submission on behalf of Lue Hotel and Leisure Pty Ltd which owns and operates the Lue Hotel.

The Lue Hotel supports the approval of the Bowdens Silver Project.

Lue is a very small town with the Lue Hotel and the Lue Public School being the main centres of the town. The Lue Hotel is the main retail business in town (there is one other retail business which is Lue Pottery), and our place in the community is not just as a hotel. It is the hub and heart of this community. It is a family friendly venue where locals host children's birthday parties, christenings, fundraisers, wakes and general get togethers. There is additional seasonal business at weekends from visitors to a nearby motor bike track when it is open, and some business from tourists passing between Mudgee and Rylstone, but the main business by far comes from the local community. The hotel is well supported locally and the hotel supports the community in return.

We were concerned to learn about an interview on 2BS radio on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 with the President of the Lue Action Group saying that Bowdens Silver had bought the Lue Hotel. This is not correct and this person knows it's not correct. Bowdens Silver does not own the Lue Hotel and never has. The person also suggested during the interview that we don't care about the hotel and have done nothing to improve it. This is false information being spread by the President of the Lue Action Group.

Since buying the hotel in late 2019—at the time it was struggling to remain afloat and had been on the market for some years—we have done considerable work. We have rebuilt the entire bar area including the underground area and foundations, modernised the kitchen and installed a range of commercial cooking and refrigeration equipment, renovated the dining room and installed air-conditioning and heating, installed security systems ensuring the hotel complies with licensing regulations, repaired outdated wiring and plumbing, completely upgraded the toilet block, improved the accommodation facilities, installed modern hospitality software and repainted the whole of the inside of the hotel. In short, we have improved the facilities at the hotel immeasurably while ensuring we retain its historic appeal and character.

We have also extended the days and hours that both the restaurant and hotel are open. We have ten employees, two permanent and eight casuals (there were three employees when we took over). We have provided and paid for training and certificates for many members of staff who wanted to work but didn't have the necessary qualifications and we will continue to do so in the future.

We have listened to members of the community regarding improvements they would like to see. Many have expressed interest in the town having a café with a range of convenience items and we have commenced the building of the café in the adjoining building.

We believe that Bowdens Silver will have a significant benefit to both the hotel and the soon to be opened café. Bowdens Silver staff currently support the hotel through their attendance and we expect that the café will be well supported by the workers on a day-to-day basis. This support and economic benefit will enable the hotel and café to continue to increase its offerings and services to the local community. Bowdens are very active locally and are good supporters of local fundraisers and of the Lue Public School.

Bowdens Silver has shown they have a very strong conviction to not only support the town, but to preserve and protect it and are committed to seeing it thrive. The majority of the locals have seen this over the years. It is also pleasing to see there are very limited impacts from a negative standpoint. However, Bowdens is certainly going to have a very positive impact locally and for the Lue Hotel and its new café. This is going to be a major contributor to the ongoing viability of the township.

The misinformation that was broadcast on the radio last week about the pub and Bowdens Silver by the Lue Action Group is not an isolated incident and we have heard it for years. Most of the patrons at the Lue Hotel consider that the misinformation spread by the Lue Action Group is not helpful for the town or the community and that it is why the Lue Action Group is not well supported locally. However, the Lue Hotel operates as its own business and everyone is welcome. Most of the regulars at the hotel welcome a sensible and quality project and would like to see increased job opportunities and economic growth for their town.

We strongly support the Bowdens Silver development. It is extremely important for the sustainability of the town and for our business.

By way of disclosure, a director of Bowdens Silver is a part owner in the Hotel.