

Bowden's Silver Project

This Submission is an OBJECTION to the Establishment of Bowdens Silver Project

During the 2022 year our property situated along Lawson Creek (the creek) has experienced 3 flood issues.

The first was of a minor nature where the creek did not break its banks.

The second flood was of major proportions where the creek broke its banks and water and some mud and grass was deposited on our paddocks.

The third flood was of catastrophic proportions where the creek broke its banks and the water level rose about 1 meter plus above our front gate and covered Lue Rd and Gawthorne Bridge over Lawson Creek on Lue Rd,.

The flood deposited debris (logs mud grass and weeds) all over our grazing and pasture paddocks along the creek and washed away and damaged all of our fencing in the paddocks along Lawson Creek as well as washing away parts of Lue Rd and the abutments to Gawthorne Bridge (refer to Mid-Western Council).

This flood water was not local but came from the upstream source of Lawson Creek and its feeder streams.

Prior to this during the drought of 2019 Lawson Creek ran dry.

The climate events we have experienced over the last half to the last decade and the first half of this decade are not unique and according to expert forecasts and historical records will be repeated.

The concern being raised here and the contained objection to the establishment of a Mining Operation in and around Lue for Silver or Zinc and Lead is that during mining operations and the transport of crushed ore and after mining operations cease there will be a leaching of toxic waste (cyanide, and heavy metals) and dust into the waterways of Lawson Creek and its feeder streams and into the atmosphere. Contact of toxic wastes is hazardous to human and animal health and soil contamination is at best dangerous and prohibitive to crop raising.

Refer to the issues recorded for the Blue Mountains such as Canyon Colliery (closed 1997) and Sunny Corner Gold Mine (closed last century) and there is still sever pollution seeping into the waterways and Grose River from surface water.

The cost and success of clean up and rehabilitation is expensive and with limited success. It is better to prevent the pollution and damage occurring than to attempt to remedy the disaster. (refer to Centenial Coal and the spill into Wollangambe River and the clean-up).

The most careful and stringent precautions expressed to be taken by The Mining Company can all be destroyed by a weather issue and by failure of the walls of a holding cell (waste and tailing dams holding areas) being flooded or breached and overflowing into waterways.

The lining of such holding areas is still subject to leaching of toxic waste into the ground water.

Such a contamination of the above water ways would be catastrophic to our farming operations as the contamination of Lawson Creek would render the water which we use as drinking water for our animals and as irrigation water for our pastures toxic to sheep and lambs and to the feed crops we grow and render any meat from the lambs unsaleable for human consumption due to the build up of toxic matter in the meat.

Such contamination would also and to no lesser extent adversely affect the aquatic life birds insects turtles reptiles and ecosystems (plants) which now flourish along Lawson Creek. Preservation of our fragile ecosystems is paramount to our and our earths survival.

The contamination and pollution would not only be restricted to surface water of Lawson Creek and feeder streams but would also pollute the water drawn from bores to water stock and irrigate pastures. This seepage of pollutants in subterranean water can travel for long distances so not only the properties along Lawson Creek would be affected but those some distance from the creek could be affected by pollution as well as other significant ecological sites in the area.

Some Water Pumping Rights along Lawson Creek have been acquired by the Mining Company and the extraction of any extra quantity of water from Lawson Creek be it large or small volumes would radically affect the flow of water and thus the ability of producers to maintain their now allowed pumping rights for irrigation and stock water. This would also affect the ecosystems along the creek. Refer to the Murray Darling issues now faced.

These issues are not only of concern to us a single entity but would be experienced by all those along Lawson Creek and those who use bore water.