




Bowdens Silver Project Community Consultative Committee

2020 Annual Report

Bowdens Silver Project Community Consultative Committee – 2020 Annual Report

Project: Bowdens Silver Project Community Consultative Committee
Reporting Period: January 2020 – December 2020
Independent Chair: Darryl Watkins
Support: Anna Sessink, Project Manager

Version	Author	Date	Authorised
1.0	Darryl Watkins	15/02/2021	

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Introduction

Bowdens Silver Project

The Bowdens Silver Project (the Project) is the largest, undeveloped silver project in Australia and one of the largest globally, potentially processing two million tonnes of ore over a sixteen year period.

The Project is located in New South Wales, approximately 26 kilometres east of Mudgee in the town of Lue, in the Central Tablelands Region and approximately 260 kilometres from Sydney.

Meeting 8 on the 27 February was held face to face in Mudgee however due to the introduced COVID-19 regulations meetings 9 and 10 were held via videoconference. This initially proved a challenge as at times connectivity in the Mudgee region is intermittent. However, it was a credit to the CCC members that they were resourceful and made every effort to ensure they attended meetings 9 and 10.

In 2020 Bowdens Silver lodged the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). Shortly thereafter, the EIS was on public exhibition for a 8-week period from 2 June to 27 July 2020. During this period, Bowdens Silver prepared an EIS Summary Document that was posted to 1700 residences around the area. This EIS Summary Document also provided instructions on how to place a submission and information for community members to attend a future virtual open day as an alternative to face-to-face meetings.

The two virtual open days held on 2 and 3 July 2020 were an opportunity for the community to ask questions of various subject matter experts to answer questions regarding the EIS and the project in general. 3D modelling was also provided to CCC members and the community. All the above information was also made available on the Bowdens Silver Project website.

Representatives from DPIE also attended CCC meetings 9 and 10 to provide a briefing to the CCC members on the EIS process, proponent obligations and the response to the EIS submissions process.

This Report

The 2020 Annual Report, covers three meetings held over a 12 month period from January 2020 to December 2020, held on the following dates:

- Meeting 8, 27 February 2020
- Meeting 9, 17 June 2020
- Meeting 10, 24 November 2020

Committee Establishment

Following receipt of the updated SEARs in 2017, a new Bowdens Silver Project Community Consultative Committee (BSPCCC) was established.

Mr Darryl Watkins was appointed as the Independent Chair, and following a nomination period and face-to-face interview process, a number of key stakeholders and local community members were appointed as committee members. While some members had been involved with a previous Committee for this project, there were a number of new members.

Committee members included representatives of the proponent (Silver Mines Limited and Bowdens Silver Pty Limited), local residents, representatives of the Lue Action Group, a representative of the Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation, a representative of the Rylstone Kandos Chamber of Commerce and a representative of the Mid-Western Regional Council.

In 2020, the committee membership changed slightly with Councillor John O'Neill (CCC Representative from the Mid-Western Regional Council) stepping down and Councillor Alex Karavas replacing Councillor O'Neill as the Mid-Western Regional Council representative. Further, Jane Munro stepped down as the Bowdens Silver Pty Ltd representative due to leaving the company and was replaced by Tom Purcell.

Committee Governance

The BSPCCC was established and operated in accordance with the Department's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines.¹

¹ Guidelines available at <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Community-Consultative-Committees>

Code of Conduct and Pecuniary Interests

All committee members agreed to abide by a Code of Conduct (See Appendix A | Codes of Conduct) and declare pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in the project.

Signed copies of both the Code of Conduct and the Declaration of Interest were collected prior to confirming appointment to the Committee.

BSPCCC Current Membership

The below table lists current Committee members and their representation on the committee.

BSPCCC Member	Representation
Mr Anthony McClure	Managing Director, Silver Mines Limited
Mr Blake Hjorth	Bowdens Silver
Mr Tom Purcell	Bowdens Silver, Environmental Representative
Mr Bradley Bliss JP	CEO, Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Mick Boller	Lue Action Group
Cr Alex Karavas	Mid-Western Regional Council
Ms Sonia Christie	Resident (Rylstone)
Mr Tom Combes	Resident (Lue) and President of the Lue Action Group
Ms Sally Dryburgh	Resident (Mudgee)
Mr Phillip Freeman	President, Rylstone Kandos Chamber of Commerce
Mr John Lydiard	Resident (Lue)
Mr Darryl Watkins	Independent Chair

Table 1: BSPCCC Membership

BSPCCC Meeting Attendance

The below table notes attendance records of Committee members.

BSPCCC Member	Meeting 8	Meeting 9	Meeting 10	Attendance Total
Mr Blake Hjorth	X	✓	✓	2
Mr Anthony McClure	✓	✓	✓	3
Mr Tom Purcell	✓	✓	✓	3
Cr Alex Karavas	✓	X	X	1
Mr Bradley Bliss JP	✓	X	✓	2
Mr Mick Boller	X	✓	✓	2
Ms Sonia Christie	✓	✓	✓	3
Mr Tom Combes	✓	X	✓	2
Ms Sally Dryburgh	✓	✓	X	2
Mr Phillip Freeman	X	X	X	0
Mr John Lydiard	X	X	X	0
Mr Darryl Watkins	✓	✓	✓	3

Table 2: BSPCCC Meeting Attendance

2020 Committee Activities

Overview

As per the Department’s Guidelines, the BSPCCC is specifically established in an advisory capacity, and not as a decision-making or regulatory body.

The BSPCCC has met three times with meetings held 27 February 2020, 17 June 2020, and 24 November 2020.

BSPCCC Meetings

As outlined above due to Covid restrictions the 27 February meeting 8 was held face to face in Mudgee at Council offices in The Stables Meeting Room. 17 June and 24 November meetings were conducted remotely via video conference.

Meeting	Date	Location
Meeting 8	27 February 2020	Mid-Western Regional Council, 86 Market Street, Mudgee
Meeting 9	17 June 2020	Videoconference
Meeting 10	24 November 2020	Videoconference

Table 3: BSPCCC Meeting Schedule

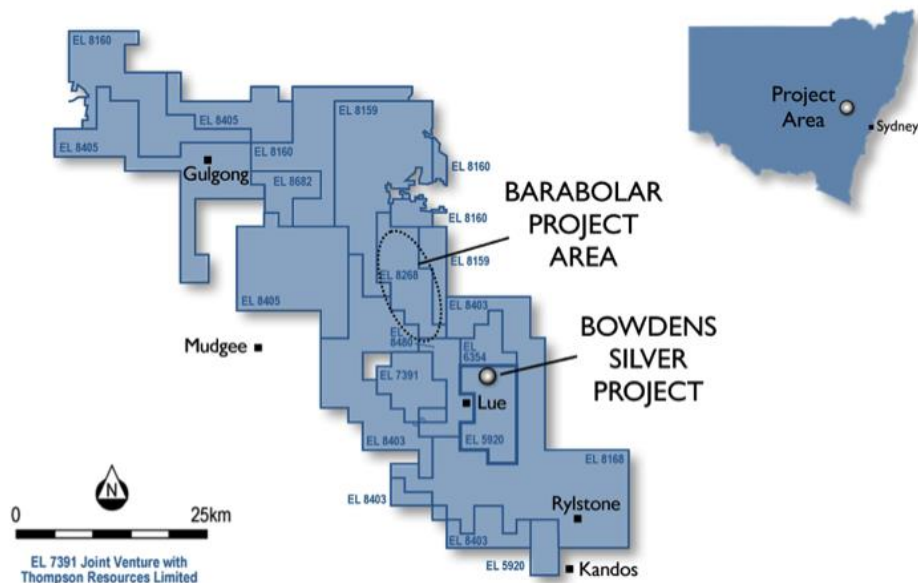


Figure 1: Silver Mines Limited tenement holdings in the Mudgee district.

Meeting Agenda Summaries

Committee meeting agendas were drafted in consultation with committee members, and designed to address topics of interest and focus areas. Some agenda items were arranged by the proponent in response to specific requests from community representatives on the committee.

Meeting	Agenda Summary
Meeting 8 27 February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Welcome to Country, Welcome and Apologies · Code of Conduct/Pecuniary Interests · Meeting 7 Action Items · Bowdens Silver Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) update · Community Report and Feedback · Q&A and Discussion · Meeting Dates for 2019 · Agenda Items for Meeting 9 · General Business · Close Meeting
Meeting 9 17 June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Welcome to Country, Welcome and Apologies · Videoconferencing ground rules · Code of Conduct/Pecuniary Interests · Meeting 8 Action Items · DPIE EIS Public Exhibition process update · Bowdens Community Consultation update · Q&A and Discussion · Communication with Broader Community · Agenda Items for Meeting 10 · General Business · Close Meeting
Meeting 10 24 November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Welcome to Country, Welcome and Apologies · Videoconferencing ground rules · Code of Conduct/Pecuniary Interests · Meeting 9 Action Items · Status of Bowdens Silver Project EIS submission responses · DPIE EIS update · Q&A and Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questions regarding the EIS process report to the CCC - General questions · Communication with Broader Community · Agenda Items for Meeting 11 · General Business · Close Meeting

Table 4: Meeting Agenda Summaries

2020 Key Issues

Committee meetings focussed on a number of key issues during the 2020 meetings. These issues are outlined below. All minutes and presentations are available on the Bowdens Silver website: <https://bowdenssilver.com.au/community-consultative-committee-meeting-minutes/>.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps/Ongoing
Communication with the broader community	The proponent has disseminated information to the community and stakeholders through the CCC, Virtual Community Open Day forums, and in individual engagements around the site area and pipeline path. Similarly, the CCC has provided a forum for members to bring concerns and questions to the proponent about the progress of the project.	Minutes and relevant information all made available on the Bowdens website. Committee membership was also published on the website with the proponent committing to providing accessible information in the form of images and 3D modelling of the mine site.
EIS submission and public exhibition	The proponent lodged the EIS with DPIE in 2020 and an 8-week public exhibition period followed shortly thereafter. DPIE fully briefed the CCC on the EIS process and the subsequent obligations for the proponent in regards the response to submissions.	The proponent and DPIE will provide detailed updates on the EIS response to submission process.
Water impacts and pipeline proposal	The CCC has been updated and has discussed progress on the proponent's water usage plans, with members providing feedback on these plans. Specifically, the CCC has been engaged in discussion around the pipeline through which the project will receive water from the Ulan Coal fields, highlighting issues around land holdings and heritage.	Continued compliance under NSW Water Sharing Plans and Water Resource Plans under the current Water Management Act. Bowdens Silver will be undertaking an extensive engagement program during the EIS assessment process.
Biodiversity rehabilitation and offsetting	The proponent has provided strategies around biodiversity offsetting and the rehabilitation of the site after the life of the mine has expired. These have been discussed with the CCC. The proponent has also outlined risk mitigation strategies around existing biodiversity in the area.	Ongoing discussions with the community and the CCC. Bowdens Silver will continue to undertake an extensive engagement program.
Heritage	Indigenous heritage sites and sites of cultural significance at the mine site and along the proposed pipeline path have been discussed. Community concerns about consultation and the dissemination of information with regard to these issues have been raised at the CCC and have been discussed.	The proponent's heritage report expound studies completed and this will continue to be discussed in reference to community concerns.
Community, social and economic impacts	CCC members have raised concerns around the operational impacts this mine will have in the community, specifically on employment and real estate valuation leading to a degradation of the community. Further, traffic issues have been discussed as well as sponsorship practices by the proponent. The proponent has presented a Social impact report as part of EIS requirements	Ongoing discussions with the community via CCC. Bowdens Silver will continue to undertake an extensive engagement program.
Health impacts	The proponent has responded to CCC member concerns around the presence of metals in dust from the site. The proponent has provided air quality modelling criteria in response to a question on notice.	Ongoing discussions with the community via CCC. Bowdens Silver will inform the CCC, community, and stakeholders extensively in conjunction with the public exhibition of the EIS.

Table 5: Key Issues arising from the BSPCCC Meetings in 2020

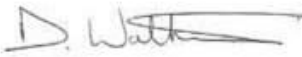
2021 Focus Areas

With the EIS now lodged, the focus of the 2021 meetings will be the response to submissions of the EIS and subsequent feedback from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on the project assessment process/timeline.

The Committee will continue to discuss the key issues of concern as raised by representatives of the community, and design meeting agendas in collaboration with committee members to ensure the meetings remain relevant and informative.

The Independent Chair will continue to liaise with committee members to ensure a forum is provided for discussion between the proponent and representatives of the community, stakeholder groups and the local council on issues directly relating to the Bowdens Silver Project.

Signatory

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	15/02/2020

Appendix A | Codes of Conduct

Code of Conduct Agreement – Independent Chairperson

As a condition of engagement, the independent chairperson of a Community Consultative Committee must agree to adhere to the following code of conduct.

Accepted behaviour

As the independent chairperson of the Bowdens Silver Project Community Consultative Committee, I understand I am expected to:

- personally chair all committee meetings, or if I can't be present, get the Planning Secretary of the Department to appoint an alternate chairperson for the meeting from its pool of independent chairpersons
- oversee the appointment of community representatives to the committee
- ensure that all matters dealt with by the committee fit within the purpose of the committee
- act as a convener, facilitator, mediator and advisor for the committee to ensure that members can put forward views and that they are not interrupted
- be independent and impartial with respect to all members of the committee
- create an atmosphere of open and constructive participation by the members of the committee where they can communicate relevant concerns, interests and ideas and express their reasons for any disagreement
- actively work with the members of the committee to try and resolve any disputes that may arise during the committee's activities
- ensure confidential matters handled by the committee are kept confidential
- be the key contact between the committee and the Department and other external parties
- advise the Department as soon as possible of any potential or actual conflict of interest that may affect my ability to fulfil my role on the committee
- ensure members of the committee comply with the code of conduct, and issue warnings to members who do not comply with this code
- review the performance of the committee from time to time and refer any matters of concern to the Department.

Signed declaration

As the independent chairperson of the committee, I agree to abide by this code of conduct.

I further declare that I have no conflicts of interest in relation to my appointment to this committee.

Code of Conduct Agreement – Members

As a condition of engagement, all members of Community Consultative Committees must agree to adhere to the following code of conduct.

Accepted conduct

As a member of the Bowdens Silver Project Community Consultative Committee, I understand I am expected to:

- attend committee meetings, at dates and times set by the committee's independent chairperson
- advise the independent chairperson in advance if I am unable to attend meetings
- respectfully engage with other members of the committee
- contribute to an atmosphere of open and constructive participation
- openly communicate relevant concerns, interests and ideas and make reasons for any disagreement clear in a constructive and thoughtful manner
- put forward views but also remain committed to open and shared dialogue
- actively work with the members of the committee to try and resolve any disputes that may arise during the committee's activities
- ensure confidential matters handled by the committee are kept confidential, and refrain from discussing these matters with other parties outside meetings
- not interrupt when another member is speaking
- not speak publicly on behalf of the committee
- not misrepresent the views of other members of the committee outside meetings
- immediately advise the independent chairperson during meetings of any potential or actual conflict of interest relating to matters under discussion
- abide by the directions of the independent chairperson.

I understand that if I miss three consecutive meetings I may be replaced on the committee.

Signed declaration

As a member of the committee, I agree to abide by this code of conduct.

Appendix B | Questions on Notice Register

Meeting	Question	CCC Member	Responsibility	Status	Response
Meeting 8	How much water is coming out of the Lawson Creek Valley	Tom Combes	Bowdens Silver Pty Limited	Finalised	<p>"The Lawsons Creek Valley is for the purpose of this response considered to cover the Lawsons Creek Catchment. It is important to recognise that the Project would not directly source any water from Lawsons Creek. In fact, arrangements have been made to construct a water supply pipeline to avoid the need to use water from local sources in this manner.</p> <p>The Surface Water Assessment for the Project prepared by WRM Water and Environment discusses the Lawsons Creek Catchment (see Section 3.4 and Figure 3.4 of WRM, 2020). WRM notes that Lawsons Creek has a catchment area of approximately 507km² to the Cudgegong River confluence (near Mudgee). However, for the purpose of assessment, an area of 272km² has been considered which is the catchment area to the confluence with Walkers Creek. At its peak, the catchment of the Mine Site would cover 550ha or approximately 2% of the catchment area to the confluence with Walkers Creek (this may be compared with total surface disturbance of 422ha). The bulk of the much larger Lawsons Creek Catchment has been altered (cleared) to support agricultural activities. While higher flows may be expected given the large size of the catchment, the majority of this water is captured on farm dams or diverted. It is also worth noting that historic agricultural activities have impacted water quality in Lawsons Creek. Average flows in Lawsons Creek downstream from Hawkins Creek are estimated at 7 136ML per annum.</p> <p>The water supply requirements for the Project and volume of water that would be sourced from within the Mine Site are presented in detail in Section 5.5 and Table 5.5 of WRM (2020). In summary, the modelling undertaken by WRM estimates that an average annual input of 1,526ML of water would be sourced from the Mine Site which includes water sourced from capture of rainfall, from groundwater bores or inflow to the main open cut pit and moisture contained in the ore materials. A large component of the water required would be sourced from groundwater or runoff that does not enter Lawsons Creek and therefore is not a direct impact to creek condition. The loss of water attributable to the Project that would otherwise flow to Lawsons Creek is 88ML per annum at a peak (downstream of the confluence with Hawkins Creek) or 1.2% of annual flow in this location. Downstream of the Walkers Creek confluence, the quantity of water that would otherwise flow to Lawsons Creek would be 188ML or 2.2% of annual flow in this location (see Section 8.4 and Table 8.1 of WRM, 2020).</p> <p>It is worth noting that Bowdens Silver has focused on opportunities for water reuse and recycling on the Mine Site through the capture and use of sediment laden water in dams, groundwater and surface water that accumulates in the open cut pit and decant water from the TSF. 40% of all water used would be recycled for use in processing and other site requirements. It is stressed that Bowdens Silver has prioritised use of water that would be sourced within the Mine Site as this is water</p>

Meeting	Question	CCC Member	Responsibility	Status	Response
					<p>that would need to be managed on site regardless of its final use and therefore it is considered beneficial use of the water available. For example, the groundwater inflows to the open cut pit occur as the ore material is extracted and the water needs to be managed to permit ongoing extraction. This water would be pumped to the raw water dam and used in processing as a preference over water supplied externally. In this manner, every effort has been made to be efficient with water use and where it is sourced, provide for multiple sources so there is contingency in the system and reduce reliance on water that may otherwise be used by landholders within the Lawsons Creek Valley.</p> <p>Further information on the licensing requirements and site water balance may be found in the recorded presentation summarising the outcomes of the Surface Water Assessment available from the Bowdens Silver Website. Michael Batchelor of WRM directly responds to a similar question in that presentation."</p>
Meeting 8	How many times they visited Barra Road and at what time of year, regarding orchids	Bradley Bliss JP	Bowdens Silver Pty Limited	Finalised	<p>The field survey was undertaken by the ecology consultant in April 2019. Two species of threatened orchids were identified as requiring further assessment at the time. The survey that followed did not detect presence of the orchids in the area, nor are there historical records of presence in the area. It was noted that one of the orchid species is sensitive to the effects of grazing, indicating presence is unlikely. The consultant concluded that these orchid species are unlikely to be present in the area, and no further assessment was necessary.</p>

Appendix C | Meeting Minutes

BSPCCC Meeting 8 - Minutes

Meeting:	Bowdens Silver Project CCC - Meeting 8
Date:	Thursday, 27 February 2020
Location:	The Stables Meeting Room, 82 Market Street, Mudgee
Time:	5.00 – 7.00 PM
Independent Chair:	Darryl Watkins, (DW)
Attendees:	Anthony (Tony) McClure, Silver Mines Ltd (TM) Bradley Bliss J.P., Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (BB) Tom Combes, Community Member (TC) Sonia Christie, Community Member (SC) Sally Dryburgh, Community Member (SD) Cr Alex Karavas, Mid-Western Regional Council (AK) Tom Purcell, Bowden Silver (TP) - <i>Observer</i> Nick Warren, RW Corkery & Co (NW) - <i>Guest Speaker</i> Korena Flanagan, Independent Minute Taker (KF)
Apologies:	Blake Hjorth, Bowdens Silver (BH) Mick Boller, Lue Action Group (MB) Philip Freeman, Chamber of Commerce Kandos-Rylstone (PF) John Lydiard, Community Member (JL)

Actions

Action	Responsible
Arrange Biodiversity Conservation Trust to attend a meeting in the future.	DW
Arrange a meeting between DW, MB and TM regarding correspondence.	DW
Information on water diversion from Mid-Western Regional Council.	AK
Information regarding water table impacts provided to JL to be provided to all CCC members.	TM
AK to be provided information pack and invited to tour the proposed mine site	TM
Provide the committee with answers to questions taken on notice regarding details of the EIS	TM/NW
Write to Bowdens regarding suggestion of a non-mining scholarship from the community investment fund.	BB
DW to contact committee members re timing of next meeting.	DW

Minutes

Minutes	Action
<p>Welcome and Apologies (DW)</p> <p>DW noted apologies received from BH, MB, PF and JL. DW noted that TP was in attendance as a representative of Bowdens, in his role as Bowdens Environmental Officer.</p> <p>DW acknowledged local experience of the bushfires and noted with respect the resilience that the community and committee members have shown during the recent bushfire. TC noted the need for more RFS active members and acknowledged the efforts of local firefighters.</p> <p>BB gave the welcome to country.</p> <p>Chair welcomed AK as the new representative of Mid-Western Regional Council. AK provided an overview of his background and priorities for his involvement in the committee. AK stated that he supports the Bowdens project. DW noted that Bowdens could provide further detailed information, noted that AK could talk to himself or the company.</p> <p>TM noted that BH would organise a new committee members pack for AK and offered AK a site visit.</p>	
<p>Pecuniary and other interests (DW)</p> <p>DW reiterated the process for declaring and updating pecuniary and other interests.</p>	
<p>Code of Conduct (DW)</p> <p>The Chair reaffirmed the Code of Conduct.</p>	
<p>Meeting 7 - Action Items (DW)</p> <p>a) DW to clarify who makes decision regarding exhibition timing</p> <p>DW confirmed with the Department that it sets the timing of the exhibition.</p> <p>DW asked Bowdens to provide a comprehensive update on the EIS, to be done at this meeting. DW confirmed with the Department that this was appropriate at this point in the process.</p> <p>DW confirmed Department representatives are happy to come to a future committee meeting and would prefer to come once the EIS is lodged to brief committee on the process.</p> <p>b) DW to invite the Department of Planning and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to the next meeting</p> <p>This action is outstanding due to EIS lodgement timing. DPIE will attend the next meeting. An email has been sent to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust seeking their attendance at a future CCC meeting.</p> <p>c) DW to provide update to MB regarding correspondence</p> <p>DW has liaised with MB and TM directly about correspondence. DW will arrange a private session between himself, TM and MB regarding issues raised in the correspondence to try to resolve the issue.</p>	<p>DW to arrange Biodiversity Conservation Trust to attend a meeting in the future.</p> <p>DW to arrange a meeting between himself, MB and TM regarding correspondence.</p>

<p>SC noted that Mick wrote letter on behalf of Lue Action Group and was asking for an apology and for that request to be included in the minutes. DW responded that it is more appropriate to take the issue offline given MB wrote as a representative of Lue Action Group and signed off the correspondence as such and so as to not take up the time of the meeting.</p> <p>TC said his view is that it is an issue for the meeting.</p> <p>DW reiterated the position that it was best to discuss further between MB and TM rather than tie up the meeting. TM responded that he was happy to take the advice of DW on how to move forward.</p> <p>TC and SD noted that they disagreed with the chair's ruling and would like that minuted.</p> <p>d) JO to provide information about water diversion</p> <p>Anna Sessink spoke to JO regarding the issue. JO could not recall details of what was being requested. DW clarified the issue with committee members and asked AK to follow up.</p> <p>e) BH to provide information about water table impacts to JL</p> <p>Information provided to JL regarding water and he had no further questions.</p> <p>TC asked if committee can be provided the information as well.</p> <p>DW agreed and Bowdens will provide information to committee members.</p> <p>f) BH to investigate placement of information materials in the Rylstone Council chambers</p> <p>Rylstone Council advised that it was not possible because it only allowed displays from Government or NGOs.</p> <p>g) BH to provide copies of the community newsletter to PF</p> <p>BH provided copies of the community newsletter to PF.</p> <p>h) JM to advise DW if TM is unable to attend the next meeting</p> <p>TM is in attendance at the meeting.</p> <p>i) JM/BH to invite PF for project introduction briefing Bowdens Silver</p> <p>PF has been invited to visit Bowdens.</p>	<p>AK to follow up re providing information on water diversion.</p> <p>TM to provide information to all committee members on water table provided to JL. This is on the condition that the information provided to JL is not considered private.</p>
<p>Bowdens Silver Project Environmental Impact Statement Update</p> <p>Presentation by NW, Principal Consultant R.W Corkery and Co Pty Limited. A copy of this presentation is attached to the minutes.</p> <p>The presentation outlined the assessment process undertaken by the consultant (R.W. Corkery and Co) preparing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).</p> <p>NW reported that investigations and community engagement have fed into the detailed planning undertaken to develop the EIS. He said the goal of the EIS is to balance the economic efficiency of the mine with social and environmental risks. The EIS seeks to achieve this and to meet assessment requirements set by the Government.</p> <p>Environmental assessments are now at independent peer review stage and the consultant is considering recommendations of the reviews that have been completed.</p> <p>NW noted that the company instructed to deliver an outcome that would work for both Bowdens and the community.</p> <p>The presentation provided the committee with a summary of information regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - key features of the project - summary of changes in mine design from previous owner 	<p>TM & NW</p>

- water supply pipeline
- power supply options noting that impacts of power supply to the mine are assessed, but the EIS is not an approval process for obtaining power for the mine
- mine site rehabilitation.

The consultant reported that the EIS is prepared following requirements specified in legislation and NSW Government guidelines with assessments being undertaken across impacts. The Committee was briefed on the assessment process and resultant predictions of assessments of:

- Noise
- Blasting
- Air Quality
- Human Health Risk
- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Traffic impacts
- Visual impacts
- Ecology
- Land uses and agricultural impact
- Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage
- Economic impacts
- Social impact, noting that impacts are not evenly distributed across individuals and stakeholder groups.

Outcomes of a random community survey to identify wider community perceptions of the project were provided as part of the presentation, acknowledging specific feedback from Lue residents.

NW said there will be ongoing engagement with local businesses regarding the supply chain. In addition, there will also be ongoing engagement through the company's good neighbor policy and the planning agreement with Mid-Western Region Council.

Engagement will also be ongoing to identify community investment ideas to be funded through the Community Investment Program.

Finally, details about what happens next including the public exhibition process were provided.

NW reported that the EIS is in the final stages of preparation.

TC notes skepticism about process given length of time it has been ongoing.

SC asks for rough estimates

TM notes that company has been in process for 3.5 years. He also noted that the company has not achieved timelines it originally thought it would. TM said that Bowdens had inherited a project where a lot of work had been done. Previous proponents had only done early work on feasibility study. The EIS is ordinarily completed after feasibility. Bowdens engaged consultant to start work on the EIS before feasibility study was completed in 2018 because of timeframe concerns.

TM noted that Bowdens took the view that project should be scaled back, based on environmental and community work that had been done previously. He also noted that assessment work is iterative. The assessment done for noise initially came up with an acceptable result under the guidelines. Bowdens took a view given impacts on neighbours, not to just get to the point of getting under the guidelines but to go back to the drawing board and redesign the design parameters to do substantially better in this regard. He noted that the company is frustrated about timelines as well, but the directive from the company's board was to undertake early works properly to avoid a major iterative process at EIS stage.

SC said that from a community perspective this has been ongoing for 30 years with six proponents.

<p>TM said he understood, but that Bowdens had only been working on it for 3.5 years in and has completed the drillout, resource assessment, reserve assessment, the feasibility study and now the EIS. He said he was expecting the EIS lodgment to be completed in the next two months at the outset.</p>	
<p>Q&A and Discussion</p> <p>Following the presentation, DW invited committee members to ask questions regarding the presentation.</p> <p>It was agreed with the CCC members that the best way to deal with questions from CCC Members is to go through the presentation page by page (31 pages).</p> <p>AK asked if the ore would be exported.</p> <p>TM responded that the silver lead concentrate will be trucked either to Kelso or Parkes to be smelted in Port Augusta (South Australia). Zinc to be sent overseas.</p> <p>TC noted the absence of mentions of cyanide in the presentation and asked that it be confirmed that cyanide would be used as part of the processing.</p> <p>NW confirmed it would be and that there will be detailed information in the EIS.</p> <p>TM noted that almost all goldmining uses cyanide. This is a fraction of that for this process.</p> <p>TC noted that there was a drive to get cyanide out of mining process if possible. He asked if it was true that processing cannot take place with anything but cyanide.</p> <p>TM responded that it all comes down to treatment recovery. Notes goldmining as an example. For fine-grain silver and gold mining this is the best process.</p> <p>TC asked if there was no other way.</p> <p>TM responded that from a recovery point of view this process is considered the best. It is a very safe process.</p> <p>TC said that people are scared by it – it is a nasty chemical.</p> <p>TM noted that there has never been an accident in Australia and that it is a non-issue.</p> <p>SC asked NW about his area of specialty?</p> <p>NW responded he was an environmental planner.</p> <p>SC asked if the water supply pipeline had been signed off.</p> <p>NW reported that the company was in discussions with landowners and Ulan. It is an on-going process. The company will not have confirmation until the mine is approved.</p> <p>SC asked if they need approval first.</p> <p>NW noted that our agreement is separate. It is a supply agreement so yes and approval to purchase of water.</p> <p>SC asked what percentage of landholders and has council agreed to easement access.</p> <p>NW confirmed that was being worked through. They are in the process of trying to identify and contact landholders. This will be needed before approval but not for the EIS submission. The company understands it is a risk to present EIS before getting landholder approval.</p> <p>SC asked if there were any environmental issues in taking water out of one catchment and putting it in another.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>Questions to which Bowdens/consultant to provide answers to the committee:</p>

<p>NW responded that they have spoken to the Natural Resources Access Regulator and it has no concerns.</p> <p>TC asked for clarification on different workforce numbers in the presentation.</p> <p>NW said that TM had raised the same point. He explained that a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) is an economic statistic and is covered in the EIS. It considers the difference between someone who is employed now taking a job that is paid at a higher rate. It looks at not the number of people employed, but the FTE change. It is an economic figure not a person figure.</p> <p>TM said it is simply explained in the EIS report, but agreed it is a difficult figure to understand.</p> <p>NW confirmed that 228 people will be employed.</p> <p>TC asked for clarification on features of the map on p 4 of the slide.</p> <p>NW provided clarification.</p> <p>SC asked where acid mine drainage would flow.</p> <p>NW said it will be captured on site and there is a range of dams and it will be pumped to the tailings dam. He then provided a detailed explanation of how run-off will be dealt with.</p> <p>TC asked for further clarification of map features – noting that below the tailings dam, there are two different features.</p> <p>NW pointed to the orange blocks and explained they are top-soil stockpiles.</p> <p>TC asked if there was no secondary wall for that dam and asked what the safety net for the dam was if it fails.</p> <p>NW said spillway designed to divert to dam at base of embankment and that it would be detailed in the EIS.</p> <p>SC asked for clarification on the map where the box woodlands would be cleared.</p> <p>NW said this information would be further in the presentation.</p> <p>SC said she would be interested to see how it was going to be staged while looking at where the pit is.</p> <p>NW said that most of the clearing will occur at the start of the project. Other areas will need to be cleared throughout.</p> <p>SC asked if the company would need biobanking straight away.</p> <p>NW said that the offsetting assessment will be in the EIS.</p> <p>SC noted that there will still be a net-loss nationally. Questioning the legislation.</p> <p>NW said this was a matter for government and the best way forward was to discuss with the local MP. Any native vegetation removal requires offsetting.</p> <p>SC said she was not sure that this was being implemented how it was originally proposed.</p> <p>TC said he was trying to get a handle on percentages of water recovered in the mine site and coming through the new pipeline.</p> <p>NW said it changes overtime. A lot of water needed in the start and it fluctuates depending on need.</p> <p>TC asked for the percentage coming out of the Lawson Creek Valley.</p> <p>NW said he didn't have the number on him.</p> <p>TC said that from his recollection it was 85 percent.</p> <p>NW said that they were relying on a range of sources.</p> <p>TC noted that the presentation says that accommodation for workers would be sourced locally and asked for clarification about what local means.</p>	<p>QON: How much water is coming out of the Lawson Creek Valley.</p>
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<p>NW said that it could be counted on that it meant the Mid-Western Region LGA.</p> <p>TM said there would be restrictions on distances driving to work.</p> <p>TC said the point is you're not going to have a site camp and you will use local accommodation, because people will have a benefit from that.</p> <p>TM said that local is Mid-Western LGA.</p> <p>BB asked how long it would be before the development application for the pipeline goes to the Department.</p> <p>NW said it will go with the EIS.</p> <p>BB asked for the timing for the application on the power supply.</p> <p>NW said it was separate process and that the assessment was now being undertaken, but it will depend on the energy provider. Power will be needed for the operation.</p> <p>BB asked if cultural heritage has been done for the power line.</p> <p>NW said that they had covered the mine site.</p> <p>BB asked about outside the mine site.</p> <p>NW said that they are not assessing outside the mine-site.</p> <p>TC asked what the options are.</p> <p>NW said there are several options, but it will depend on energy providers. The preference is that they do not relocate lines outside the mine site.</p> <p>BB noted that cultural heritage work on Continental Wind Partners (CWP) wind farm has been done, which is one of the options.</p> <p>DW asked for clarification that negotiations would be done the on best deal and best route.</p> <p>NW responded that it is about feasibility. Once the project is approved, we go through a process of designing the power line. Power line design needs to be approved by the energy provider and they provide assessment on that.</p> <p>SC asked if they would liaise with landholders.</p> <p>NW said yes.</p> <p>TC asked for clarification about remediation for the pit. He asked if they were going to fill the hole and what would be done with it.</p> <p>NW said it will become a lake.</p> <p>TC asked about remediation of the tailings dam.</p> <p>NW said the standard process is to encapsulate the dam and put a ground cover on it using clay material to make it as impermeable as possible, top with soil and revegetate.</p> <p>TC asked what was being rehabilitated in that case.</p> <p>SC asked about acid drainage.</p> <p>NW said there is a process for testing that. The rehabilitated landform would be constructed to limit the potential for acid mine drainage, this includes by establishing a ground cover.</p> <p>SC asked for confirmation that the only dust suppression is any ground cover that can be grown.</p> <p>NW said yes and it would stabilise the surface.</p> <p>SC said unless there is a drought.</p> <p>TC asked how long will it take to fill the hole with water.</p>	
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<p>NW said more than 100 years. There will be water in it straight away, but it will progressively fill. The aquifer, evaporation and rainfall occurring will impact the rate of filling.</p> <p>SC noted the presentation says the impact on properties is marginal. She asked if there was any guarantee of purchase of homes at current market prices.</p> <p>NW noted that the process was as outlined in presentation. It is a voluntary process. For marginal properties the remedy would be mitigation of impacts.</p> <p>SC asked what would happen if the owners were still not happy after mitigation, would the company buy the properties?</p> <p>NW said there no requirement to do that.</p> <p>SC noted that it is a big percentage of Lue village.</p> <p>NW said it was four properties.</p> <p>TC noted that there were significant differences between modelling and what happens in mining and asked how the consultant ensured that the modelling is accurate.</p> <p>NW said that real-time testing for blasting cannot be done. Background noise monitoring has been done. Standard modelling had been undertaken. Part of the management of the project will be installing real-time monitoring.</p> <p>TC heard about that at other mines as well where this has not been the experience.</p> <p>SC provided an example of the difference between modelling and actual experience at Wilpinjong mine. She asked if there is something in place for compensation for building damage and high noise levels that weren't modeled.</p> <p>NW responded that there would have to be a complaint. Noise monitoring would be undertaken. That information is published and reported. If the company was not compliant, they have to notify the EPA, Council and Government and then they have to do investigation and report. Government reviews the results of the investigation.</p> <p>SC said she was wondering if there was something else in place to put people's mind at rest.</p> <p>TC noted that modelling is often a long way from reality. He said he runs a motorcross track, so he had some experience of noise issues. What is predicted and what is actual particularly at night because it is so quiet, is of particular concern to residents. He encouraged the company to do real-time testing. He said he was scared of noise, particularly at night.</p> <p>SC noted that the predicted 35 decibels at nighttime would be pretty phenomenal.</p> <p>SD asked if the mine was operating.</p> <p>TM said that there was drilling and that bulldozers and rock crushers are heavily restricted.</p> <p>NW said that the company uses consultants that have experience in real-time monitoring, so noise that a bulldozer generates is understood. Topography is mapped with wind blowing towards residents. Outcome is considered to be worst-case.</p> <p>SC asked if operating the mine during the day only could be considered.</p> <p>NW said that it had been decided this is best approach for the mine.</p> <p>TC asked for clarification about small blasts.</p> <p>NW said blasts would be small compared to a 60,000 tonne blast. It's about volume of rock. Blasts are very carefully designed to predict impacts.</p> <p>TC asked if blasts would be smaller than the Dolomite mine.</p> <p>NW said he was not familiar with it.</p>	
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<p>TC noted that it is a lot smaller and further away.</p> <p>SC asked if blast mats would be used for dust suppression?</p> <p>NW said he was not familiar with the process.</p> <p>TM confirmed blast mats would not be used. He said they were looking at scenarios where we are blasting near power lines but moving powerlines towards the west.</p> <p>TC asked on modelling if anyone had thrown a bucket of dust to see the result, noting that it had been very dusty over the past 12 months as a result of the drought.</p> <p>NW said that there would be dust monitoring on site.</p> <p>SC said that there had been unusual wind directions experienced and noted that when committee members were on top of the mine site, they thought they weren't being adequately covered by monitoring.</p> <p>TC offered another observation – that they could see a cloud of dust or smoke in the air and suggested that the company should be measuring up there, noting that ground level was only monitored. He asked if this had been done.</p> <p>NW said that locations were selected to be indicative of local conditions.</p> <p>TC said it was only two metres off the ground.</p> <p>NW said that he understood the point that fine dust could move.</p> <p>SC asked if the thresholds on page 18 were correct, noting they might be in the legislation but are they correct.</p> <p>SC also asked about water noting that the presentation says that only two properties are affected. She reported concerns if the bucket is dry, it impacts further afield, and bores will dry up.</p> <p>NW said this would be monitored.</p> <p>SC asked what happens if someone does not have a registered bore. Shouldn't the company pay for this?</p> <p>NW said that there would be no compensation for unregistered bores.</p> <p>SC asked if he was happy to help people register their bore.</p> <p>NW said it was not a matter for him.</p> <p>DW asked to clarify why the company should pay to register bores.</p> <p>SC and TC responded that people have been relying on these for decades. Some people do not know they need to register their bores.</p> <p>TC noted concerns that any reduction in the water table would cause trouble. He said the majority of those water holes are less than a metre deep. If you reduce water table by a metre then they lose.</p> <p>BB noted issues experienced at Ulan.</p> <p>NW said that for those bores where compensation is required it will be through be supply of water.</p> <p>TC asked how landholders will get the water if the company has used it all. He noted that at the moment, this drought was the seventh worst. He asked what the plan was if we are in the worst drought.</p> <p>TM said that if there is no water the mine does not exist.</p> <p>TC asked if there is a floodplan, where is the drought plan? How much is in the bucket?</p> <p>NW said he didn't have the numbers, but the aquifer extends over a very large system.</p> <p>SC asked if the numbers came from EMI surveys.</p>	
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<p>NW said that the estimates have come from government in Murray-Darling Basin planning.</p> <p>TC asked if the company had licences already.</p> <p>NW said yes.</p> <p>TC asked if there would be anything left for anyone else.</p> <p>NW said there is plenty of water available and has not been required.</p> <p>TC said that bores have gone down, the creek has gone down and noted that they would not have to be impacted much to cause problems.</p> <p>SC noted that landholders have made investments on groundwater and if it disappears all of a sudden it is damaging.</p> <p>NW noted that this is the reason assessments are undertaken. The assessment will then go to government and be examined by hydrologists and the company will need to provide a lot of detail to make sure predictions are justified.</p> <p>TC noted that in previous meetings, the company representative at the time said that the mine was not committed to impacting the water table.</p> <p>NW said this was not an accurate statement and that they had predicted draw downs.</p> <p>TC asked why the mine had not gone ahead with plans for water storage.</p> <p>NW said that a dam cannot be built without an approval.</p> <p>TC clarified that he was talking about accessing water from somewhere else – Windemere or Burrendong.</p> <p>NW said the options in the submission are the best for them from an environmental and economic perspective.</p> <p>DW noted that any concerns that cannot be resolved at the meeting should be raised through the EIS submission process.</p> <p>SC asked if any changes had been made to the legislation to take into consideration climate change.</p> <p>DW asked for clarification that no political decision had been made yet.</p> <p>NW said that it had not.</p> <p>SC asked about which route trucks would take.</p> <p>NW said it would be detailed in EIS.</p> <p>TM explained the route.</p> <p>NW noted there would not be a lot of trucks.</p> <p>BB said that he had photographs of four different types of orchids at Barra Road and asked how many times they visited and at what time of year.</p> <p>NW said he would have to chase down that detail and asked for copies of the photos.</p> <p>BB said he would rather not send photos until they are identified. He said they are on the pipeline route.</p> <p>SC asked if the impact on fauna of acid mine drainage was taken into consideration.</p> <p>NW said he was not predicting acid mine drainage.</p> <p>TC asked how clean the tailings water is and if it can be drunk.</p> <p>NW said it could not and it would be fenced off to try to stop fauna drinking from it.</p> <p>TC asked if there would be a net over the tailings dam.</p> <p>NW said there would not and that every storage facility in the state does it this way.</p>	<p>QON: How many times they visited Barra Road and at what time of year, regarding orchids.</p>
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<p>TC said that just because everyone does it does not mean you should and asked what impacts would be on fauna if there is no water.</p> <p>NW said this cannot be modeled. It is a risk and its addressed in the management of the dam.</p> <p>TC asked what the Keeping Place would be (for indigenous artefacts).</p> <p>NW said it will be agreed with stakeholders.</p> <p>BB gave examples of other mines. He noted he has on-going issues that will be addressed via comment in the public exhibition.</p> <p>SC asked if Bowden’s have no intention of acquiring properties that are being impacted by the mine.</p> <p>NW said there would be no impact that required it.</p> <p>TC asked what they would do if they are impacted and if the value of their property falls because of the mine.</p> <p>NW said that they are not predicting impacts will occur.</p> <p>SC said that was predicted at Bylong.</p> <p>NW responded that they do not compensate where impacts have not been predicted. Where impacts have been identified there will be mitigations that could improve the outcomes.</p> <p>TC asked for clarification that no one will be compensated.</p> <p>NW referred to the noise section of the presentation.</p> <p>TC clarified that only compensation would be for noise.</p> <p>NW said it is the only assessment that has predicted impacts that trigger compensation.</p> <p>SC asked if there would be compensation for Lue if dust impacts properties.</p> <p>NW pointed to the modelling that shows significant impacts are not predicted.</p> <p>BB said that he would suggest a non-mining-based scholarship, something like a medical field for community investment.</p> <p>NW said this could happen and asked for the suggestion to be put in writing.</p> <p>TC noted a letter tabled at the last meeting about a residents’ concern about community investment being seen as a quid pro quo.</p> <p>DW asked for clarification about the process after the EIS is submitted.</p> <p>NW explained details of process. Department will make submissions public. Bowdens are requested to respond and Department may raise particular concerns. Bowdens will then respond to those concerns.</p> <p>SC noted a change in the process for the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) to consider a project. She clarified that at the moment if there are more than 25 submissions the project will go to IPC.</p> <p>NW agreed that would happen, at the moment.</p> <p>DW closed the Q & A session after going through 31 slides.</p>	<p>BB to write to Bowdens regarding his suggestion of a non-mining scholarship from the community investment fund.</p>
<p>Communication with Broader Community</p> <p>DW will contact everyone about communication with the broader community.</p> <p>TM noted that each of the high-resolution images are available on the website</p> <p>DW asked about a request for 3D modelling from a previous meeting.</p> <p>TM to let the committee know when 3D modelling is available on the website.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

<p>General Business</p> <p>No general business.</p>	<p>DW</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>DW to contact everyone regarding timing of the next meeting.</p> <p>DW understands the Department of Planning will come to the next meeting.</p> <p>SC discussed Productivity Commission recommendations regarding the Independent Planning Commission and Minister’s plans to implement them in full. Number of objections will go from 25 to 50.</p>	<p>DW</p> <p>DW to contact committee members re timing of next meeting.</p>
<p>Close Meeting – 7:45 pm</p> <p>The Chair thanked CCC members for their attendance. The meeting was closed at 7:45 pm.</p>	



EIS Update

Bowdens Silver CCC Presentation

Prepared by



R.W. CORKERY & CO. PTY. LIMITED

27 February 2020

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Community Information Session FEBRUARY 2020



Our Assessment Process

- Historic investigations provide basis for assessment of proposed Project
- Detailed planning to balance efficiency of mining with potential environmental and social risks
- Consultation with Government → SEARs
- Consultation with the community including neighbours, residents in Lue, organisations such as the Lue Public School and broader regional residents and businesses
- Assessment of constraints and consultation feedback
- Revisit planning to ensure we are achieving the best balance of environment and social outcomes and an economically feasible project
- Final assessment and peer review (noise, air quality, health, surface water, groundwater)

A Comprehensive and Iterative Assessment Process

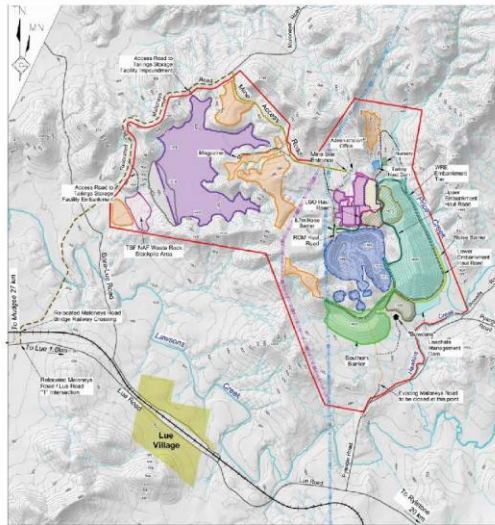
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What is being proposed

- Open cut mine
- Processing of up to 2.0 million tonnes of ore per year to produce silver/lead and zinc concentrates for sale
- No smelting on site
- Project life of 16.5 years / 23 years taking into account rehabilitation
- Initial capital investment ~\$250 million
- Peak workforce of up to 320 during construction and 228 during operations
- A water supply pipeline, processing plant, tailings storage facility and waste rock emplacement
- All administration and office facilities on site
- A new public road to provide vehicle access to the Mine Site, west of Lue
- Progressive rehabilitation over the life of mine





Changes to Mine Design

Previous Owners Design	Current Design
Mining of 53 million tonnes of ore and 79 million tonnes of waste rock	Mining of 30 million tonnes of ore and 47 million tonnes of waste rock
Processing of 4 million tonnes per annum of ore	Processing of 2 million tonnes per annum of ore
Water requirements averaging 3.5 GL per year	Lower water requirements averaging 2.1 GL per year
Water sourced from local groundwater, surface capture and other sources	Water recovered from within Mine Site with make-up water supplied by new pipeline
Large water storage dams for water capture	No large water storage infrastructure planned
Infrastructure located closer to Lue	Relocation of processing plant further north
Construction workers accommodation on site	No worker accommodation on site with all accommodation to be sought locally
Single open cut pit covering approximately 73ha	A main open cut pit and two satellite open cut pits, collectively covering approximately 52ha
Tailings Storage Facility located to the east, capacity 46 million tonnes	Tailings Storage Facility located to the northwest, capacity 30 million tonnes
Use of existing site access to east of Lue village via Pyangle Road	New road access to the west of Lue, no product transport through Lue or Rylstone



Water Supply Pipeline



- The majority of water required for operating would be sourced from within the Mine Site
- Make-up water required for the Project would be sourced from the Ulan coalfields, enabling us to avoid sourcing water from any creeks or groundwater bores outside the Mine Site
- Isolation valves would be installed at 2km to 4km intervals along the pipeline, and off-take hydrants would be installed at valve locations permitting access to water for fire fighting purposes
- The proposed route has been flown for high resolution mapping and the majority of the route has been ground surveyed for terrestrial ecology and Aboriginal cultural heritage



Powerline Supply



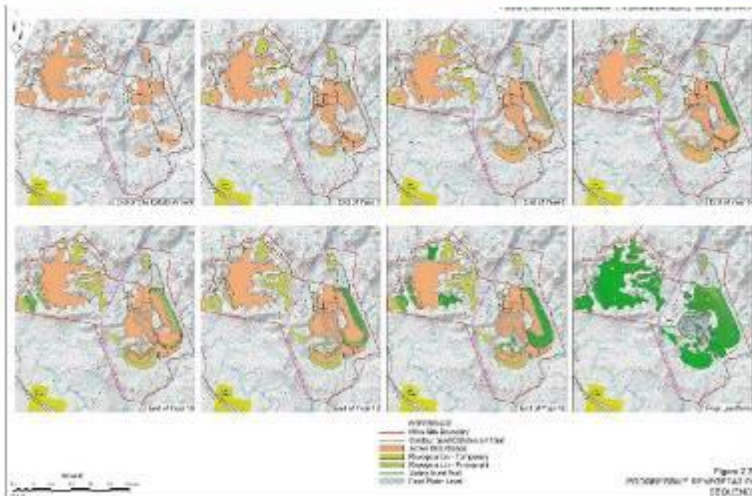
- Electricity supply options are subject to separate submissions and approvals (not a part of the Environmental Impact Statement)
- A number of alternatives developed to deliver 132kV to site

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Mine Site Rehabilitation



- Rehabilitation would involve landform construction and either temporary or permanent revegetation
- Final slopes would be designed to be stable with watercourses re-instated
- Temporary revegetation would focus on the use of exotic pastures to ensure rapid growth whereas emphasis would be placed upon native vegetation (trees, shrubs and ground covers) on all permanently vegetated areas. Both temporary and permanent revegetation would be undertaken progressively

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Environmental Impact Statement

- Prepared to assess the environmental impacts of the Project
- Information requirements specified in legislation and NSW Government guidelines
- Key environmental and social studies include:
 - Noise, Vibration and Blasting
 - Air Quality
 - Health
 - Social Impact
 - Surface Water
 - Groundwater
 - Traffic and Transport
 - Visibility
 - Terrestrial Ecology
 - Aquatic Ecology
 - Soils and Land Capability
 - Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage
 - Economic Impact
 - Agricultural Impact



Noise Assessment

Assessment Process

Undertaken in accordance with the Noise Policy for Industry

- daytime criteria over 15 minutes = 40 decibels dB(A)
- evening/night-time criteria over 15minutes = 35 dB(A)
- criteria apply under all assessable weather conditions.
- noise is modelled under standard and noise-enhancing weather conditions
- four daytime and three evening/night-time scenarios have been modelled

Predicted Noise Levels

Predicted noise levels depend upon:

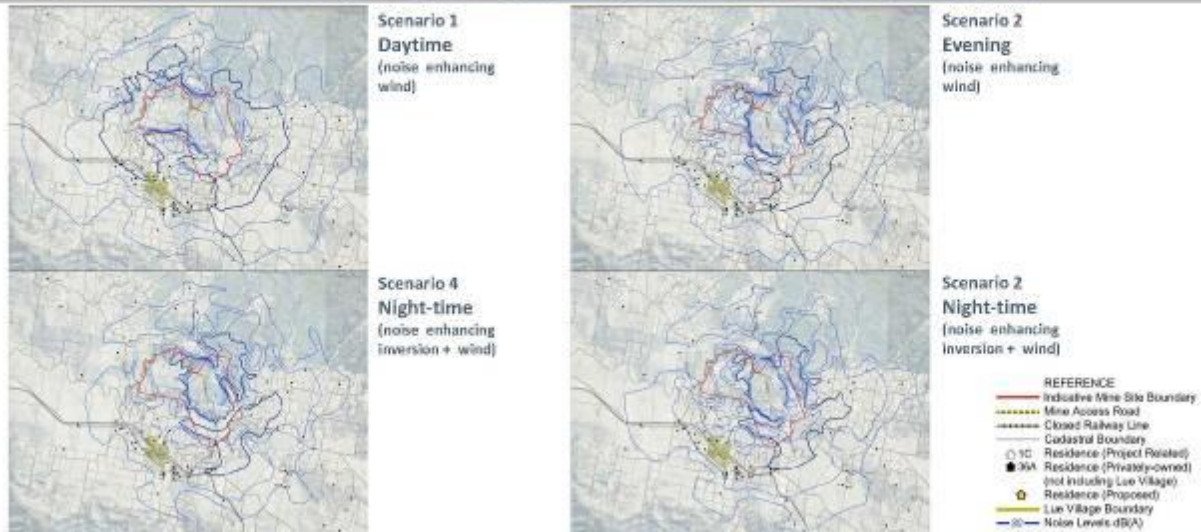
- the sound power levels from all of the fixed and mobile equipment operating concurrently
- the distance between the noise sources and residences
- the intervening topography
- weather conditions, e.g. wind, temperature inversions
- the presence of intermediate barriers and other controls

Noise Assessment

Impact Assessment (based upon the Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy)

Predicted noise exceedances	Predicted impact	No. of residences	Bowdens Silver's approach
No exceedance	Acceptable (but not inaudible at all times)	112	No mitigation actions required at the residences
1-2dB(A)	Negligible	7	No mitigation actions required, however, Bowdens would commission a builder and acoustic technician to visit properties to assess measures to improve properties
3-5dB(A)	Marginal	4	Mitigation to the dwelling may include air conditioning, double window glazing, other façade and roof upgrades etc.
>5dB(A)	Moderate (day/evening) Significant (Night)	4	Flexibility in mine operation, in noise enhancing weather conditions. Offer acquisition or enter into an agreement with compensation.

Predicted Noise Levels (under noise enhancing weather conditions)





Blasting

BOWDENS
SILVER

- Blasting is proposed generally on a daily basis, Monday to Friday to fragment an average of 25,000 tonnes of ore and/or waste rock during each blast
- Blast contractors would be commissioned to design and manage blasts so that:
 - They satisfy ground vibration and airblast limits specified by the EPA
 - Human discomfort is avoided
 - There is negligible potential to cause building damage
- Blast events may occasionally be heard in Lue as a distant rumble but rarely felt

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Air Quality Assessment

BOWDENS
SILVER

- Undertaken in accordance with the *EPA's Approved Methods and Guidance for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW*
- Cumulative impacts have been assessed, taking into account the combined effect of existing baseline air quality and emissions from the Project
- Assessment focuses on dust and particulate matter, as well as metals, respirable crystalline silica and hydrogen cyanide
- Completed an extensive background dust monitoring program, including analyses of metals.
- Collected extensive local meteorological data for use in dispersion modelling
- The Air Quality Assessment predicts:
 - no exceedance of the relevant air quality criteria for particulate matter (TSP, PM10, PM2.5 and deposited dust) at any privately-owned residences or receivers; and
 - no exceedances of the impact assessment criteria at any private residences for metal dust concentrations, respirable crystalline silica or hydrogen cyanide

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Air Quality Assessment



Annual average
PM₁₀ - Project
increment (SE&CS)



24-hour average
PM₁₀ - Project
increment (SE&CS)



Annual average
PM_{2.5} - Project
increment (SE&CS)



24-hour average
PM_{2.5} - Project
increment (SE&CS)

SE&CS = Site Establishment
and Construction Stage



Human Health Risk Assessment

The human health risk assessment has been prepared in accordance with the enHealth "Guidelines for assessing Human Health Risks from Environmental Hazards" (2012) as required by the SEARs.

Assessment involved:

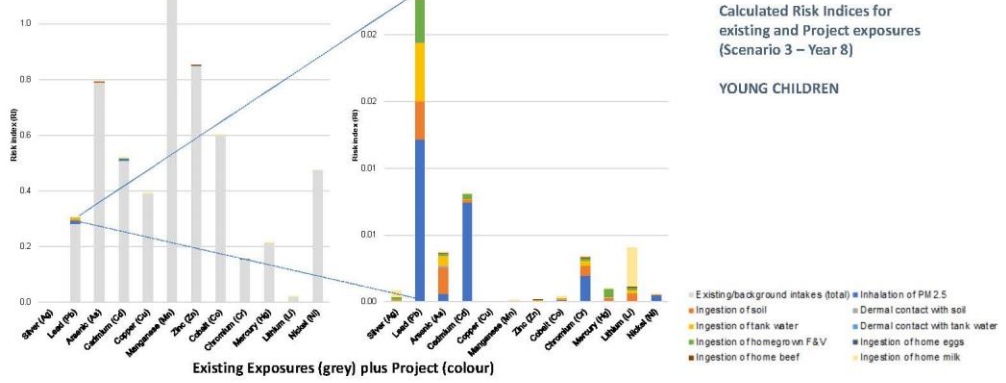
- a comprehensive air, soil and water monitoring program, including analyses of metals
- detailed testing of soil material to determine how much lead may come off the soil and be available to be absorbed by humans, where exposure occurs
- consideration and assessment of:
 - emissions to air of dust which includes lead and other metals
 - noise emissions
 - any impacts on water quality





Health Impacts

Health Assessment Outcomes - Metals

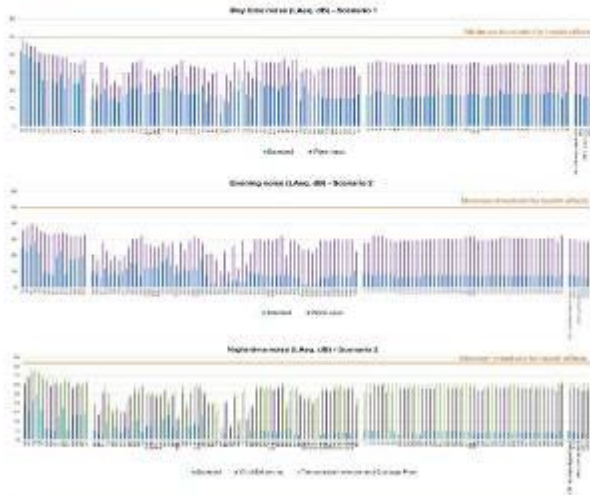


$$\text{Risk} = \frac{\text{Exposure or intake from sources}}{\text{Acceptable intake (no health effects)}} \quad \text{Acceptable Risk} \leq 1.0$$



Health Impacts

Assessment Outcomes - Noise



What does this mean

- All noise levels during the day, evening and night are below health based thresholds for any adverse health effects at privately-owned residences and places of interest, including the Lue Public School.



Surface Water Assessment



Probable Maximum Flood (>1 000 year)

Undertaken in accordance with the DPIE's assessment requirements and includes:

- development of a water balance model that has been calibrated to recorded local conditions
- developed hydrologic and hydraulic models that have been calibrated to local conditions, to identify the magnitude and extent of potential impacts
- Assessment of impacts to downstream water users, flood risks, erosion and sediment controls
- provided all models to an independent, industry recognised peer reviewer for assessment



Groundwater Assessment



Maximum Groundwater Drawdown - metres

Undertaken in accordance with the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy and includes:

- Development of a numerical groundwater model that is based on extensive testing in and around the Mine Site that has been calibrated to local and regional groundwater levels
- Provision of the groundwater model and report to an independent, industry recognised peer reviewer for assessment to ensure that it meets with the criteria of the Australian Groundwater Modelling Guidelines



Traffic Impact Assessment



- Undertaken in accordance with the DPIE’s assessment requirements and includes assessment of:
- Existing local and regional road network and conditions, including traffic counts
- Impacts to local and regional road users as a result of Project-related traffic
- Key outcome has been to demonstrate the benefits of relocating Maloneys Road to the west of Lue and the commitment to use buses to transport staff to the mine rather than individual vehicles. Traffic that would pass through Lue has been reduced



Visual Impact Assessment

- Assessment involved:
 - observations of the Mine Site from 53 private and public viewing locations
 - cross-sections to analyse views from key viewing locations towards the Mine Site
 - 3-Dimensional interactive model
 - detailed review of all Project components
 - photomontages to show the sequence of visual changes throughout the mine life
 - night glow assessment

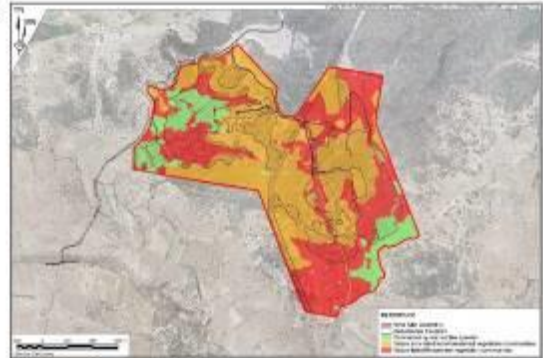
Impact Assessment

- The activities on the Mine Site:
 - would not be visible from Lue village at all;
 - would be visible from sections of Pyangle Road and Powells Road and distant sections of Lue Road;
 - would be directly visible from six non-project related residences within 5km of the Mine Site.
- The most visible features would be:
 - the light coloured rock exposed on the waste rock emplacement (sometimes up to 60m above the natural ground level), southern barrier and TSF embankment – to be minimised by progressive revegetation.



Ecology Assessment

- The terrestrial ecology studies have identified within the Study Area:
 - a total of 11 biometric vegetation types of which 3 classify as the State & Commonwealth listed White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland, a threatened ecological community
 - a total of 370 flora species of which 2 are threatened
 - a total of 168 fauna species of which 14 are threatened
- The aquatic ecology studies have identified within the Study Area:
 - 4 native fish species and 3 introduced fish species, none of which are threatened
 - that habitat for potential threatened species (none of which were identified) is sub-optimal
 - limited stygofauna
 - minor impacts to aquatic ecology with no impacts to key fish habitat and potential threatened species in Hawkins and Lawsons Creeks



Land Uses

- A detailed review of land uses within and surrounding the Mine Site has been undertaken
 - Based on a combination of Australian Land Use and Management Classification mapping, land zoning data and observations made on the ground
- Land surrounding the Mine Site principally comprises grazing land and heavily vegetated areas with minimal land use.
 - Grazing accounts for 94.6% of farmland regionally
- Other land uses include:
 - Horticulture (e.g. olives)
 - Viticulture
 - Agritourism / Accommodation
 - Recreation (e.g. Louee Enduro and Motocross Complex)
 - Lifestyle lots
- Land within the Mine Site is principally used for grazing of livestock on modified pasture (~49%) and on land with low agricultural value (~43%)





Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

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- Undertaken in accordance with:
 - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Community Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW, 2010)
 - Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH, 2011)
 - Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (DECCW, 2010)
- Using a predictive model of Aboriginal cultural heritage site locations, surveys have been undertaken across the Mine Site and along the water supply pipeline corridor, with the assistance of registered Aboriginal parties
- Approximately 58 sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance were identified that would be subjected to either direct or indirect impacts
- Approximately 25 of the sites are located within areas to be disturbed during the Project life and would be salvaged and artefacts stored in a “Keeping Place”
- Approximately 33 of the sites are located outside the areas to be disturbed during the Project life and would be protected from disturbance or avoided.

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Community Information Session FEBRUARY 2020



Economic

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- The economic assessment has analysed the Project using both Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) and Local Effects Analysis (LEA) methodology.
 - The results of the CBA conclude that the Project is estimated to deliver the following net benefits :
- | Scale | Base Benefit | Base plus Employment Benefits |
|----------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| National | \$89M | \$192M |
| NSW | \$44M | \$146M |
- The LEA considered the impacts at a local (Mid-Western Regional LGA) scale and concluded the following.
 - During operation the Project would provide between 73 and 129 “net direct full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs”* and support a further flow on of between 74 and 131 “net indirect FTE jobs”*.
 - There would be very small and inconsequential impacts upon agricultural economic activity.
 - Upward pressure on local area wages would not likely be significant, but would attract skilled labour to the local area
 - The potential impact on housing and rental prices would likely be positive but negligible.
 - Some impact to property values would be expected where a property is likely to be impacted by noise, air, visual, etc. Where these impacts are contained / mitigated, no impact to property value would be expected to occur.

* as defined in the LEA methodology in the Economic Assessment

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Community Information Session FEBRUARY 2020

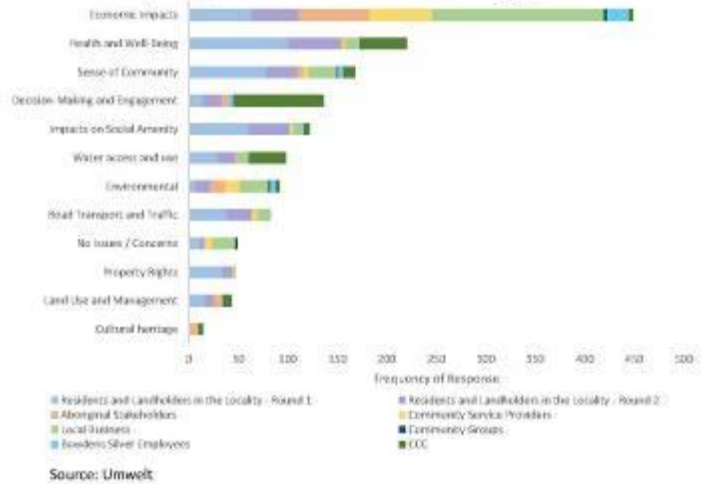


Social Assessment

Summary of Themes Raised – All Engagement

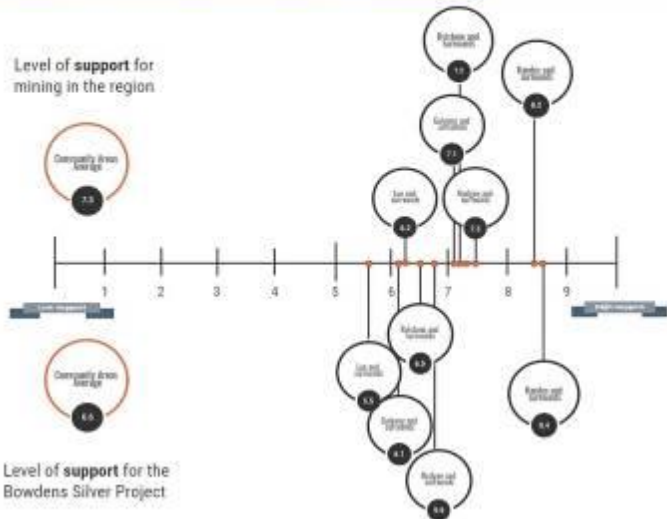
- Key positive effects identified include potential economic benefits to the region through employment, procurement and business opportunities – providing a much needed social and economic stimulus.
- Key negative social impacts identified include impacts upon health and wellbeing, changes to sense of community, community cohesion and culture, impacts on social amenity (as a result of noise, visual and traffic impacts), impacts relating from property acquisitions, conflict as a result of competing land uses; and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Frequency of Themes Raised – All Engagement



Random Community Survey

- Undertaken by Jetty Research from 19 to 28 August 2019 across the Mid-Western Regional LGA.
- To identify wider community perceptions of the Project
- Total sample of 410 obtained with a response rate of 26%
- 86% of the sample had no connection to mining
- Survey prior to Bylong decision, which may have changed perceptions of support for the Project





Social Assessment

- Key mitigation and enhancement strategies
 - Community Investment Program
 - Local employment and procurement strategy
 - Good Neighbour Program
 - Planning Agreement with the Mid-Western Regional Council
 - Social Impact Management Plan
 - Community Complaints Protocol
 - Ongoing regular reporting, monitoring and engagement in order to keep the community informed, maintain transparency, and to remain accountable.
- The benefits and costs from projects are not always evenly distributed across individuals and stakeholder groups. Therefore, the proposed mitigation and enhancement strategies have particularly focused upon residents surrounding the Mine Site, within Lue and surrounding communities.
- In particular, the focus of the Community Investment Program would be to enhance existing projects and to develop new projects and programs that are consistent with the local community needs, values and aspirations.



Ongoing Engagement

- A range of community investment ideas and opportunities have been provided by the community.
- Ongoing engagement would focus on identifying projects that are:
 - Supported by the community, Council and Bowdens Silver.
 - Achievable and feasible for Bowdens Silver to invest in.
 - Timely in terms of providing immediate benefits (life of the Project), however longer term projects will be considered.
- A refined range of projects would be funded through the Community Investment Program.
- The Planning Agreement with Mid West Regional Council would cover a range of agreed opportunities and benefits separate to the Community Investment Program.
- The Planning Agreement would focus on public amenity and public services
- The terms of the Planning Agreement would be discussed with the CCC as these are finalised with Mid West Regional Council.



- Continued engagement with key stakeholders
- Development application to be submitted to the DPIE
- Public Exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement and supporting studies (indicatively 6 to 8 weeks)
- Bowdens has the opportunity to respond to submissions received by DPIE
- Assessment of the development application by Government
- Determination of Development Application



**BOWDENS
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← We Are Here

Source: Development application process for State Significant Development resource projects

BSPCCC Meeting 9 – Minutes

Meeting:	Bowdens Silver Project CCC - Meeting 9
Date:	Wednesday, 17 June 2020
Location:	Videoconference
Time:	17.00 – 19.00 PM
Independent Chair:	Darryl Watkins, (DW)
Attendees:	Anthony (Tony) McClure, Silver Mines Ltd (TM) Blake Hjorth, Bowdens Silver (BH) Mick Boller, Lue Action Group (MB) Sonia Christie, Community Member (SC) Sally Dryburgh, Community Member (SD) Tom Purcell, Bowden Silver (TP) – <i>Observer</i> Nick Warren, RW Corkery & Co (NW) - <i>Guest Speaker</i> Stephen O'Donoghue, DPIE (SOD) – <i>Guest Speaker</i> Rose-Anne Hawkeswood, DPIE (RH) – <i>Guest</i> Philip Nevill, DPIE (PN) - <i>Guest</i> Anna Sessink, Independent minute taker (AS)
Apologies:	Bradley Bliss J.P., Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (BB) Cr Alex Karavas, Mid-Western Regional Council (AK) Tom Combes, Community Member (TC) Philip Freeman, Chamber of Commerce Kandos-Rylstone (PF) John Lydiard, Community Member (JL)

Actions

Action	Responsible
SOD to forward the names of the experts engaged to assess the EIS to all CCC members when available.	SOD
TM to provide additional USB sticks containing soft copies of the EIS to the Mid-Western Regional Council Offices in Mudgee.	TM
TM to provide USB sticks containing soft copies of the EIS to all CCC members.	TM
DW to share contact details RH and SOD with CCC members in case they have any questions regarding the EIS assessment process.	DW
SOD to refer the lead paint issue at Lue School, as raised at the CCC meeting, to the appropriate contacts at the Department of Education.	SOD
TP to provide answers to QoN (no. 24 - 25) in writing and place them on the Bowdens website.	TP
BH to send details on virtual open days and the 3D model to DW to forward to CCC members.	BH
DW to forward the four questions regarding lead paint at the school raised by SC on behalf of a community member to SOD.	DW
AK to provide information on water diversions at next CCC meeting – outstanding action item from meeting 8	AK

BB to write to Bowdens regarding suggestion of a non-mining scholarship from the community investment fund – outstanding action item from meeting 8	BB
BB to provide Bowdens with photographic evidence of presence of orchids at Bara Road – outstanding action item from meeting 8.	BB

Minutes

Minutes	Action
<p>Welcome and videoconferencing ground rules</p> <p>DW welcomed all participants and outlined ground rules for using the videoconferencing tool.</p> <p>SOD will provide an update on behalf of the Department of Planning, Industry, and Environment (DPIE).</p> <p>DW noted that TP was in attendance as a representative of Bowdens, in his role as Bowdens Environmental Officer.</p> <p>DW provided an acknowledgement of Country.</p>	
<p>Apologies</p> <p>DW noted apologies received from PF, TC, JL, BB and AK.</p>	
<p>Pecuniary and other interests (DW)</p> <p>DW reiterated the process of declaring and updating pecuniary and other interests.</p>	
<p>Code of Conduct (DW)</p> <p>The Chair reaffirmed the Code of Conduct in that we respect each other's opinions regardless how diverse and that no one is to record this meeting.</p>	
<p>Meeting 8 - Action Items (DW)</p> <p><u>Action item 1: DW to arrange Biodiversity Conservation Trust to attend a meeting in the future.</u></p> <p>DW confirmed that he had contacted the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to seek their attendance at a future CCC Meeting. Attendance at this meeting was considered impractical due to time constraints. They are on notice to attend a future meeting as required.</p> <p><u>Action item 2: AK to provide information on water diversions on behalf of Mid-Western Regional Council.</u></p> <p>DW has not yet heard back from AK in relation to the issue.</p> <p><u>Action item 3: TM to provide information regarding water table impacts provided to JL to all CCC members.</u></p> <p>The answers to JL's queries on water diversions have been distributed by the Chair to all CCC members by email on 16 June.</p> <p><u>Action item 4: AK to be provided information pack by TM and to be invited to tour the proposed mine site</u></p> <p>AK will possibly take up the invitation of the tour later.</p> <p><u>Action item 5: BB to write to Bowdens regarding the suggestion of a non-mining scholarship from the community investment fund</u></p> <p>BH noted he had not yet received any correspondence from BB.</p> <p><u>Action item 6: DW to contact committee members regarding timing of next meeting.</u></p>	<p>AK to provide information on water diversions at next CCC meeting.</p> <p>BB to write to Bowdens regarding suggestion of a non-mining scholarship</p>

<p>Completed.</p> <p><u>Action item 7: DW arrange a meeting between DW, MB and TM regarding correspondence</u></p> <p>DW noted that the matter had unfortunately not been resolved yet.</p> <p>MB noted he is not interested in a personal meeting with TM as he does not regard it as a personal matter. MB advised the statements made by TM at the CCC meeting on 27 June 2019 are unjust and should be retracted to maintain integrity between Bowdens Silver and the Lue Action Group (LAG).</p> <p>TM noted the interaction is recorded in the minutes and was not prepared to withdraw the statement. TM advised he would be happy to meet with MB outside of this forum.</p> <p>DW stressed the importance of the issue and proposed to try to continue to resolve the matter offline.</p> <p>MB thanked DW for his efforts on behalf of the LAG, and noted he would not be pursuing the matter further.</p>	<p>from the community investment fund.</p>
<p>Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Public Exhibition Update</p> <p><u>Presentation</u></p> <p>A presentation was provided by SOD, Director Resource Assessments at DPIE. A copy of this presentation is attached to the minutes.</p> <p>SOD provided a description of the key steps involved in the environmental impact assessment process and how the community can provide feedback to the Department through the submission process.</p> <p>The consent authority for this project will either be the Minister or the Independent Planning Commission (IPC). The IPC will get involved if at least 50 unique objecting submissions are received - which is highly likely.</p> <p>As the project has been declared a controlled action under Commonwealth legislation due to impacts on threatened species, the NSW Government will assess the potential impacts of the project on threatened species in accordance with the Assessment Bilateral between the NSW and Commonwealth governments. However, the Commonwealth would make a separate determination on the project if approved by the NSW Government.</p> <p>The Bowdens Silver project has now progressed to the third stage of the assessment process, which is the public exhibition of the development application. SOD noted that the public exhibition process timeframe is 56 days, compared to the minimum required period of 28 days, to provide additional time for comment in light of COVID-19 restriction.</p> <p>A public hearing may be requested by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces at the final determination stage. If a public hearing is not requested then a public meeting will likely be held at the determination stage, as the IPC is expected to be the consent authority.</p> <p>Submissions can be made until 27 July 2020 via the website or by mail. SOD pointed out that some personal details of the submitter will be published on the Department's website unless a person requests to remain anonymous.</p> <p>SOD noted that community engagement by the Department is subject to COVID-19 restrictions. Meetings with the community, including LAG members, will likely happen when restrictions ease. The Department would also like an ongoing dialogue with the CCC.</p> <p>Submissions will be collated at the end of the exhibition period, after which they will be made available on the DPIE website, along with agency advice and advice from experts engaged in the process. Bowdens Silver will be asked by the Department to provide a response to the submissions.</p>	<p>DW to share contact details of RH and SOD with CCC members in case</p>

Questions and Answers	
<p>Q: SC enquired if there is a way to tally the number of unique submissions made. A: SOD advised that submissions are collated and classified at the end of the exhibition period.</p>	<p>they have any questions regarding the EIS assessment process.</p>
<p>Q: SC asked if submissions are rated. A: SOD answered that all submissions are treated equally. However, submissions which provide details of people’s concerns, rather than for example just objecting with minimal supporting information, can be considered more carefully during the assessment process. Groups, e.g. biodiversity groups or the Koala Foundation, are experts in their own field and may provide additional arguments or information to be considered.</p>	
<p>Q: SC enquired if the reputation and financial fitness of mining companies to operate and fund the project beyond the EIS stage is taken into consideration during the assessment process. A: SOD advised that the planning process focusses on ensuring adequate information is available for assessment and does not involve a financial fitness test. The fitness/ competency of the entity operating the mine is considered when it comes to the mining lease and environmental protection licence applications, if a project proceeded.</p>	<p>SOD to forward the names of the experts engaged to assess the EIS to all CCC members when available.</p>
<p>Q: SC enquired about the assessment on requirements on modelling precision. SOD confirmed that uncertainty analysis would be undertaken. A: SOD noted that once experts, including the groundwater expert, have been engaged, the names of these experts could be passed on to the CCC.</p>	
<p>Q: DW asked who determines whether submissions received are unique. A: SOD explained it would be DPIE, and legal advice would be sought if needed. Mining projects usually receive over 50 unique submissions.</p>	
<p>Q: DW referred to a recent suggestion made by one of the CCC members to make available hard copies of the EIS at alternative venues to improve access. A: SOD advised that the Council Chambers in Rylstone are currently closed due to COVID-19 restrictions and renovations. SOD advised to stay in touch with Council to facilitate the exhibition of a hard copy when they reopen.</p>	
<p>Q: MB asked SOD if individuals can request hard copies of the EIS. A: TM noted that a private room (adhering to health and safety and COVID practices) at the Bowdens Silver site has been made available to inspect the EIS, along with an interactive 3D model providing an overview of the project. Summary documents of the EIS are also available.</p>	
<p>Q: MB advised that due to COVID-19, not all community members feel comfortable visiting public places to collect a copy of the EIS. A: SOD noted that DPIE does not require the proponent to make available hard copies to individuals.</p>	
<p>Q: SOD asked TM if hard copies of the EIS could be made available to CCC members. A: TM reiterated SOD’s comment that it is not a requirement to provide hard copies. TM advised that health and safety is important, and for that reason, the extra facility was made available at the company site. RH advised that a hard copy is already available at the Council in Mudgee for people to view.</p>	<p>TM to provide additional USB sticks containing soft copies of the EIS to the Mid-Western Regional Council Offices in Mudgee.</p>
<p>Q: SC enquired about the availability of EIS copies saved on USB sticks at Mudgee Council. A: NW noted that a number of USB sticks were provided to Mid-Western Regional Council. TM confirmed to make available extra USB sticks with soft copies of the EIS to the Council in Mudgee.</p>	
<p>Q: In light of the discussion, the number of apologies at this meeting and COVID-19 restrictions, DW advised TM to consider MB’s request of making available hard copies. A: TM committed to making available USB sticks with EIS copies to all CCC members.</p>	<p>TM to provide USB sticks containing soft copies of the EIS to all CCC members.</p>

<p>Sonia raised four questions that had been forwarded to her by a community member concerned about the school and arising from the EIS:</p> <p>Q1: The people of Lue have been told many times that Planning checks the EIS carefully and will look after our interests. How long has the Department of Planning known that there is crumbling lead paint at the Lue School and exceedances of health guidelines of lead levels on surfaces and in the soil and water?</p> <p>Q2: Has the Department of Planning informed the parents and community of Lue and the Departments of Education and Health?</p> <p>Q3: What measures are being taken to keep the children safe? Considering there is no safe level of lead in the blood for children, have they been offered testing?</p> <p>Q4: Whose job is it to look after the people of Lue and surrounding areas and the health and wellbeing of the children and staff at Lue School?</p> <p>Answers:</p> <p>SOD advised that the lead paint issue is a maintenance matter relevant to the Department of Education. SOD will refer the matter to the Department of Education to ensure they are aware of it.</p> <p>SC advised the community had picked up on the matter when reading the Bowdens Silver EIS.</p> <p>TM noted that the matter had been flagged with the Department of Education when experts of the previous owner came across the issue around 2013.</p> <p>SOD emphasised that the Department of Education is responsible for risk assessment and mitigation of any issues at facilities run by the Department.</p> <p>DW committed to forwarding the four questions to SOD to be raised with the Department of Education.</p> <p>SOD noted that the issue would be part of the human health risk section of the EIS. NW confirmed the matter is stated in Section 4.3 of the EIS.</p> <p>Q MB asked if experts coming across issues not directly related to the mine are required to flag these with the relevant Department.</p> <p>A: SOD confirmed that an unlawful issue would be referred to the relevant authority. NW confirmed that consultants take such risks seriously and deal with it in an appropriate manner.</p> <p>DW asked Bowdens to answer two pending Questions on Notice:</p> <p>QoN 24: How much water is coming out of the Lawson Creek valley?</p> <p>A: TP answered that at the peak, 136ML per annum are required from the Lawson Creek. Water access licences will be purchased under the Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie-Bogan Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012.</p> <p>QoN 25: How many times have you visited Bara Road, and at what time of year (regarding the orchids)?</p> <p>A: TP explained that a field survey was undertaken by the ecology consultant in April 2019. Two species of threatened orchids were identified as requiring further assessment at the time. The survey that followed did not detect presence of the orchids in the area, nor are there historical records of presence in the area. TP noted that one of the orchid species is sensitive to the effects of grazing, indicating presence is unlikely. The consultant concluded that these orchid species are unlikely to be present in the area, and no further assessment was necessary.</p> <p>TP noted that no photographs had been received from BB. The offer to study these still stands.</p> <p>DW asked TP to put these answers in writing so they can be distributed.</p>	<p>SOD to refer the lead paint issue at Lue School, as raised in the CCC meeting, to the appropriate contacts at the Department of Education.</p> <p>DW to forward the four questions regarding lead paint at the school raised by SC on behalf of a community member to SOD.</p> <p>BB to provide Bowdens with photographic evidence of presence of orchids at Barren Road.</p>
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<p>Q: SC enquired about the process in case less than 50 unique submissions are received.</p> <p>A: SOD advised that the Minister for Planning and Public Places would be the consent authority, however Department officers would make a determination under the delegation of the Minister. The discussion ensued regarding the role of the IPC.</p> <p>DW asked TM for further detail on the fly-through / video that was discussed previously. TM noted he referred to the 3D model that will be on display at the Bowdens Silver office and the Council in Mudgee. It will also be available to download from the Bowdens website – noting the file is large. TM encouraged everyone to inspect the model as it provides an interactive overview of the project.</p>	<p>TP to provide answers to QoN (no. 24 - 25) in writing and place them on the Bowdens website.</p>
<p>Bowdens Community Consultation Update</p> <p>BH provided an update on planned community engagement around the EIS.</p> <p>BH noted that an EIS summary booklet had been prepared to be mailed out to over 1700 residences around the area next week.</p> <p>The summary booklet provides instructions on how to make a submission and information on virtual open days that are planned as an alternative to face-to-face engagement.</p> <p>The virtual open days will involve EIS updates by a range of experts. People will need to register for these virtual events.</p> <p>BH committed to forwarding further information on the virtual open days and the 3D model to Committee members.</p> <p>BH advised that a number of job enquiries were received since submission of the EIS.</p> <p>SC noted that residents had voiced concern regarding TM's recent investment in the Lue Hotel and adjacent buildings. SC asked if TM could reassure that this purchase is personal and unrelated to Bowdens.</p> <p>TM advised that he and several partners had invested in the premises to save the hotel from closing. The Hotel was in disarray. The investment is not relevant or related to Bowdens Silver.</p>	<p>BH to send details on virtual open days and the 3D model to DW to forward to CCC members.</p>
<p>Q&A and Discussion</p> <p>Question and answers were discussed in previous agenda items.</p> <p>SD added that she had visited Council to read through the comprehensive submission. SD noted to look forward to viewing the 3D model next week.</p>	
<p>Communication with Broader Community</p> <p>This was discussed during other items of the agenda.</p>	
<p>General Business</p> <p>SOD thanked the CCC for the opportunity, and noted that any further questions or remarks could be shared with the team. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, targeted consultation with specialist groups is anticipated to be held towards the end or after the exhibition period.</p> <p>DW asked if another CCC meeting would be encouraged if requested by Committee members, DPIE or the proponent.</p> <p>SOD acknowledged the Department is happy to be involved and meet face-to-face depending on how long COVID-19 restrictions continue to be implemented.</p> <p>DW suggested that the frequency of CCC meetings can be reduced as the EIS progresses. However, additional meetings can be organised upon request.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	

DW will be in touch with Bowdens, DPIE and CCC Members regarding the next CCC meeting.	
<p>Close Meeting – 18:45 pm</p> <p>The Chair thanked CCC members for their attendance. The meeting was closed at 18:45 pm.</p>	

BSPCCC Meeting 9 – Appendix



Bowdens Silver Project

Community Consultative Committee

Presentation 17 June 2020

Stephen O'Donoghue
 Director, Resource Assessments
 Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

Purpose

- Introduction
- Project
- State significant assessment process
- How to get involved
- Questions

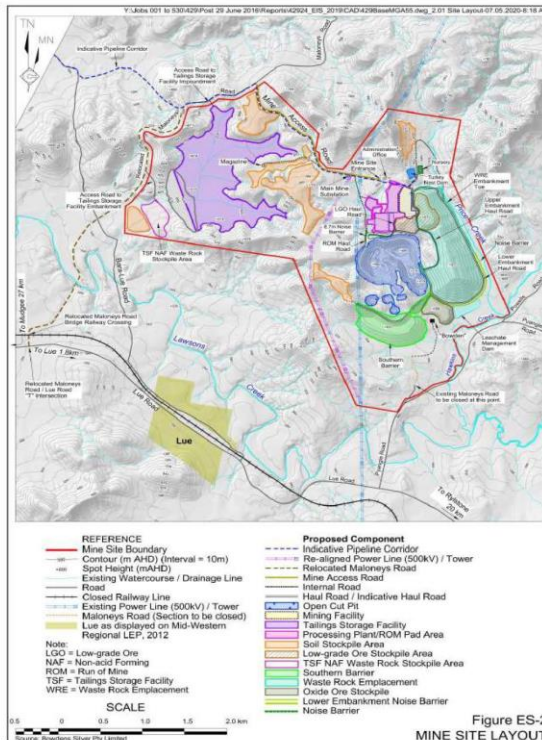
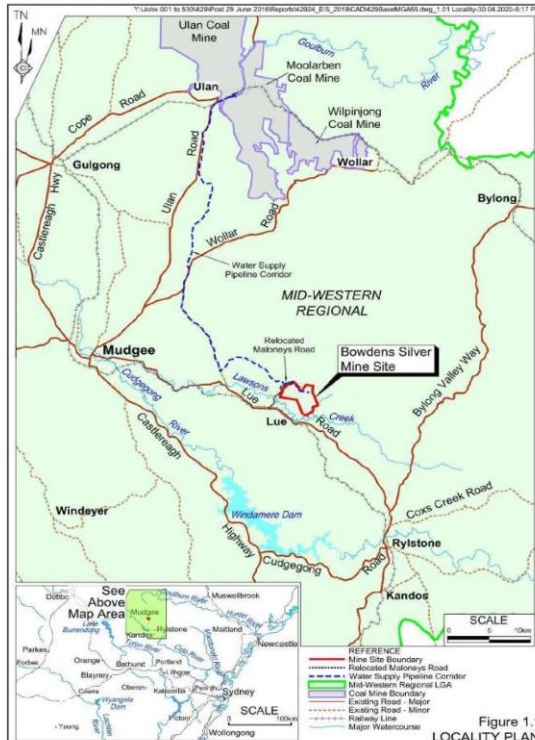


Introduction

- Role of the Department of Planning & Environment
 - Not the proponent for the project
 - *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act*
 - Coordinate Impartial Assessment for "State Significant Projects"
 - Community Consultation
 - Compliance + Enforcement
- Requirement for CCC
- SEARs



Bowdens Silver Project



Statutory Context

- State significant development – EP&A Act
- Permissible with consent – LEP zoning, Mining SEPP
- Consent authority – likely to be Independent Planning Commission (at least 50 unique submissions by way of objection)
- Other State approvals – integrated process eg.
 - EPA licence (EPL) under *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
 - Mining lease under the *Mining Act 1992*
 - Water licences under *Water Management Act 2000*
- Commonwealth approval – EPBC Act (Assessment Bilateral)



State Significant Assessment Process



SSD Assessment Process



- **Currently at public exhibition** – 8 week (56 days) exhibition period – statutory requirement 28 days
- **Public Hearing at Determination Step** - only if requested by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC)



Exhibition

- **EIS exhibition period** on exhibition until 27 July 2020
- **How to make a Submission:**
 - **Online** (including uploading attachments): create an account (see <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects>) and make a submission through via the major projects website: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/9641>
 - **By mail:** Your submission should be sent to the following address and marked as:
 "Attention: Director – Resource Assessments"
 Planning and Assessment
 Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
 Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2150



Note: Please read the Department's privacy statement. All submissions will be made public in line with the Department's objective to promote an open and transparent planning system. If you do not wish your name published, please ensure that is clearly stated when making your submission.

The screenshot displays the 'Major Projects' website interface for the 'Bowdens Silver' project. The page features a search bar, navigation menu, and a main content area with a large image of a landscape. Key elements include:

- Project Name:** Bowdens Silver
- Current Status:** Exhibition
- Submission Deadline:** 42 days
- Progress Bar:** A horizontal timeline showing the project's progress through various stages, with the current stage highlighted.
- Project Details:**
 - Application Number:** 00-0191
 - EPBC ID Number:** 2019/0072

Community Engagement

- Exhibition + Submissions
- Targeted community engagement – subject to COVID restrictions
- Site Visits / Meetings with Landowners / Special Interest Groups/
Mid-Western Regional Council
- Ongoing dialogue with Community Consultative Committee
- IPC – either a public hearing or a public meeting



Assessment Process - Post Exhibition

- Collation of Submissions by the Department
- Response to Submissions
- Merit-based and whole of Government assessment by the Department
- Determination by IPC or Minister
- Commonwealth Determination follows if approved by the IPC or
Minister



All of Government Assessment and Experts

- EPA – Noise, Air Quality, Waste, Water Pollution
- NSW Health – Public Health
- DPIE Water/ NRAR – Groundwater, Surface Water, GDE, Licensing
- Dams Safety NSW – Prescribed Dams (Tailings)
- BCD – Biodiversity and Aboriginal heritage
- DPC – Heritage Council of NSW – Heritage
- Resources Regulator – Rehabilitation, Mining Operations and Mine Safety
- Transport for NSW – Road/ Traffic
- Regional NSW – Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Resources
- Independent Experts
 - Human Health & Ecological Risk Assessment
 - Groundwater
 - Economic



Questions



Further Information

General Information:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects>

Bowdens Silver Project:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/9641>

Planner contact details on Major Project website for the specific project



BSPCCC Meeting 10 - Minutes

Meeting:	Bowdens Silver Project CCC - Meeting 10
Date:	Tuesday, 24 November 2020
Location:	Videoconference
Time:	17.00 – 19.00 PM
Independent Chair:	Darryl Watkins (DW)
Attendees:	Anthony (Tony) McClure, Silver Mines Ltd (TM) Blake Hjorth, Bowdens Silver (BH) Tom Purcell, Bowden Silver (TP) Mick Boller, Lue Action Group (MB) Sonia Christie, Community Member (SC) Bradley Bliss J.P., Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (BB) Tom Combes, Community Member (TC) Stephen O'Donoghue, DPIE (SOD) – <i>Guest Speaker</i> Rose-Anne Hawkeswood, DPIE (RH) – <i>Guest Speaker</i> Anna Sessink, Independent minute taker (AS)
Apologies:	John Lydiard, Community Member (JL)

Actions

Action	Responsible
DW to investigate MB's concern regarding the data used in the EIS around the lead paint issue at the Lue School	DW
SOD to provide a response to the Question on Notice regarding the lead paint issue as soon as practical.	SOD
TM and TC to meet with the Lue RFS to discuss opportunities for future funding support.	TM
DW to contact all CCC members to seek their feedback on continuation as a CCC Member in 2021.	All

Minutes

Minutes	Action
<p>Welcome (DW)</p> <p>DW welcomed all participants to the meeting and gave an acknowledgement to Country.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed guest speakers Stephen O'Donoghue and Rose-Anne Hawkeswood from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).</p> <p>DW outlined ground rules for using the videoconferencing tool.</p>	
<p>Apologies & CCC Membership Update (DW)</p> <p>DW welcomed Tom Purcell who is now a full member of the Committee as a representative of Bowdens Silver.</p> <p>An apology was received from JL.</p> <p>DW advised to have attempted to contact Philip Freeman (PH) but could not get hold of him.</p>	
<p>Code of Conduct & Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary Interests (DW)</p> <p>DW reaffirmed the Code of Conduct in that we respect each other's opinions regardless of how diverse and that no one is to record this meeting. DW reiterated the process of declaring and updating pecuniary and other interests.</p> <p>DW noted that JL has advised that he wishes to register a matter for the pecuniary interest register. JL has taken up a put and call option with Silver Mines Ltd over his property.</p>	
<p>Meeting 9 - Action Items (DW)</p> <p>The action items from Meeting 9 were reviewed. Meeting 9 action items listed below:</p> <p><u>TM to provide additional USB sticks containing soft copies of the EIS to the Mid-Western Regional Council Offices in Mudgee.</u> Completed</p> <p><u>TM to provide USB sticks containing soft copies of the EIS to all CCC members.</u> Completed</p> <p><u>DW to share contact details RH and SOD with CCC members in case they have any questions regarding the EIS assessment process</u> Completed</p> <p><u>DW to forward the four questions regarding lead paint at the school raised by SC on behalf of a community member to SOD.</u> Completed</p> <p><u>SOD to refer the lead paint issue at Lue School, as raised at the CCC meeting, to the appropriate contacts at the Department of Education.</u> Completed</p> <p><u>TP to provide answers to QoN (no. 24 - 25) in writing and place them on the Bowdens website.</u> Completed</p> <p><u>BH to send details on virtual open days and the 3D model to DW to forward to CCC members.</u> Completed</p> <p><u>SOD to forward the names of the experts engaged to assess the EIS to all CCC members when available.</u> To be addressed at this meeting.</p>	

<p><u>BB to write to Bowdens regarding suggestion of a non-mining scholarship from the community investment fund – outstanding action item from meeting 8</u> Completed</p> <p><u>BB to provide Bowdens with photographic evidence of presence of orchids at Bara Road – outstanding action item from meeting 8.</u> Completed. BB received confirmation from the Royal Botanical Gardens in Sydney that the orchids found within the Ulan to Bowdens Water Pipeline route through public access crown land and road reserves are all common species.</p> <p><u>Comments, Questions and Answers</u></p> <p>MB raised his concern around the absence of remedial action in relation to the lead paint issue at the Lue school. The baseline studies used in the EIS would not be current.</p> <p>TM argued the issue is irrelevant to the Bowdens Silver project.</p> <p>DW committed to investigating the matter with MB separately to this meeting.</p> <p>No further questions or comments were raised regarding the action items of the previous meeting.</p>	<p>DW to investigate MB's concern regarding the data used in the EIS around the lead paint issue at the Lue School</p>
<p>Status of Bowdens Silver Project EIS submission responses (TM)</p> <p><u>Presentation</u></p> <p>TM presented on the EIS submission process, which was successfully completed in July 2020. A copy of this presentation is attached to the minutes.</p> <p>TM advised that various agencies provided advice and submissions are made available on the Department website.</p> <p>TM noted that a large number of submissions were received from organisations and the public (70 and 1833 respectively), of which the majority was in support of the project. The breakdown is provided in the attached presentation. No major issues were raised by the government agency submissions.</p> <p>Bowdens Silver is in the process of preparing a response to the submissions received and plans to complete the process by December 2020.</p> <p><u>Comments, Questions and Answers</u></p> <p>TC enquired about the number of supportive submissions by the public and asked how pro forma submissions are being considered by the Department. Discussions ensued regarding interpretation and definition of pro forma letters.</p> <p>SOD clarified that all pro forma submissions submitted by individuals are considered by the Department. Unique and detailed submissions however are valued more highly than a pro forma submission by the consent authority. SOD also noted that it was common to see more detailed submissions from people who are against the project.</p> <p>TC commented on the planned timeframe for completion of the submissions response by Bowdens and noted the date initially brought forward was 30 October.</p> <p>TM advised that in discussion with the Department the timeline has been pushed back to December due to the complexity and the large number of submissions received.</p> <p>SOD advised that proponents can request for a reasonable extension based on the complexity of the process involved.</p> <p>TC commented that the extended timeframe is perceived as unfair by the community as the timeframe for the public to respond to the lengthy EIS document was strictly limited to 60 days.</p> <p>SC enquired about the specific reason for the delays.</p>	

<p>TM advised the main reason is the lengthy and iterative process with the agencies and consultants involved.</p>	
<p>Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) – Environmental Impact Statement Update (SOD)</p> <p><u>Presentation</u></p> <p>SOD referred to the previous discussion and advised that Bowdens Silver is expected to provide a response to submissions in December. This response will be made publicly available on the Department website. The Department will touch base with the agencies involved to confirm their feedback was considered. Further clarification may be required depending on comments received from agencies on the submissions report.</p> <p>Once the response to submissions report has been considered by the Department the team will visit the project area for further targeted consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>Independent expert reviews were provided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Nigel Rajaratnam from Centre for International Economics (CIE) - Dr Roger Drew from Drew Toxicology Consulting - Mr Hugh Middlemiss from HydroGeoLogic <p>A number of clarifications were requested as a result of the reviews and the proponent is expected to respond to these in the EIS submissions report.</p> <p>A discussion with Craig Flavel, a consultant who represents the Lue Action Group, took place with the groundwater expert Hugh Middlemiss.</p> <p>Following receipt of the submissions report, the Department expects a 90-day assessment period before referral of the project to the consent authority.</p> <p><u>Comments, Questions and Answers</u></p> <p>DW asked if the dates for further consultation with stakeholders in the area may coincide with a next CCC meeting.</p> <p>SOD advised that is a possibility and can be taken into consideration.</p> <p>DW enquired about the process of further stakeholders consultation in the area.</p> <p>SOD noted that open community sessions will be avoided due to COVID-19 so consultation with stakeholders will be targeted.</p> <p>TC referred to Craig Flavel’s conversation with the groundwater expert and asked if the Lue Action Group submission has been considered.</p> <p>SOD advised that consideration of this submission will follow receipt of the proponent’s submissions report.</p> <p>SD commented on the submission figures presented by TM and asked if the Department uses the same figures.</p> <p>SOD advised their figures will follow the submissions report and may differ based on the source and type of the submissions.</p> <p>RH explained that the figures may also slightly differ to include late submissions received.</p> <p>SC asked how the type and quality of submissions received affect the assessment.</p> <p>SOD advised the Department will identify unique submissions and conduct a merit-based assessment of the available information. Submissions will also be analysed based on project support and proximity of the respondent to the project area.</p>	

<p>MB enquired again about the lead paint issue at the Lue school and asked if the Department had taken into consideration the results of a 2020 study by the Department of Education.</p> <p>TM reiterated that this matter is not related to the Bowdens Silver project.</p> <p>SOD advised that their expert can look into the information provided by the Department of Education and provide a response.</p> <p>SOD took the Question on Notice and will follow up at a later stage throughout the assessment process.</p> <p>DW thanked the Department for attending the meeting and SOD and RH left the meeting.</p>	<p>SOD to provide a response to the Question on Notice regarding the lead paint issue as soon as practical.</p>
<p>Bowdens Community Consultation Update (BH)</p> <p><u>Presentation</u></p> <p>BH provided an update on the Bowdens Community Investment Program, which includes sponsorships, education programs and environmental conservation projects. The presentation slides are attached to the minutes.</p> <p>BH advised that Bowdens Silver is open to ideas and suggestions from the community to expand their investment in the community.</p> <p>DW thanked BH for his presentation and for accepting BB's previous suggestion regarding scholarships.</p> <p><u>Comments, Questions and Answers</u></p> <p>TC asked for more information on the facilities provided for fire and emergency services in Lue as suggested in Bowdens' presentation. As part of the Lue RFS, TC advised that Bowdens had not met with the Lue RFS to put forward their ideas.</p> <p>BH advised that Bowdens Silver is looking for opportunities to support the community. The opportunity for collaboration with the Lue RFS was identified and Bowdens is open to a conversation.</p> <p>TM made a remark about members of the local brigade not being conducive to support from Bowdens Silver in the past and asked TC if that was correct. TM asked TC if after 4.5 years of Bowdens offers of assistance the Lue RFS is now willing to discuss issues, including Bowdens staff joining the Lue RFS.</p> <p>TC commented that those issues date from the time that Kingsgate owned the Bowdens Silver project. TC advised the brigade is a fair and democratic organisation that is open to discussions around support.</p> <p>DW thanked BH for the update and proposed to move forward to the next agenda item.</p>	<p>TM and TC to meet with the Lue RFS to discuss opportunities for future funding support.</p>
<p>Q&A and Discussion (All)</p> <p>Question and answers were addressed in previous agenda items.</p>	
<p>Communication with Broader Community</p> <p>TC referred to Bowdens Silver's recent transaction concerning JL's property and asked if the company intends to acquire any further land in Lue. TC advised that the local community has expressed concerns around potential purchases.</p> <p>TM answered that any conversations on property purchases are private and confidential.</p>	
<p>General Business</p> <p>DW thanked the Committee Members for their commitment in the CCC over the past three years. DW advised as the Chair, and in consultation with Bowdens and DPIE, he may consider a reset of the Committee and asked all community members to reconsider their continued commitment for 2021.</p>	<p>DW to contact all CCC members to seek their feedback on continuation as a</p>

<p>Committee Members thanked the Chair DW for his independent chairing of the CCC meetings. Committee Members also thanked Marc Snape and AS on the correct minute taking. Thanks to Bowdens for their cooperation and participation.</p>	<p>CCC Member in 2021.</p>
<p>Next Meeting To be decided after the Christmas break.</p>	
<p>Close Meeting The Chair thanked CCC members for their attendance. The meeting was closed at 18:30 pm.</p>	

BSPCCC Meeting 10 – Appendix



BOWDENS **SILVER**

Community Consultative Committee

24 November 2020



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EIS AGENCY ADVICE

Agency	Agency
Biodiversity and Conservation Division	Resources Regulator
Crown Lands	Rural Fire Service
Dams Safety	Transgrid
DPIE Water	Transport for NSW
Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)	Western NSW Local Health
Mining, Exploration and Geoscience	DPI Agriculture
Mid Western Regional Council	DPC Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
NSW Education	

No objections from any of the Agencies.

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EIS SUBMISSIONS

	ORGANISATIONS	PUBLIC
Support	49	1448
Object	19	369
Comment	2	16
	70	1833

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Community Investment Program



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COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The Community Investment Program has been set up to specifically decide on and implement community projects related to education, heritage, tourism, community events, charities, land management, town beautification, sponsorships, etc.

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CURRENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- On-site work experience programs.
- Lue Public School - IT sponsorship, water bore, garden, new bus, educational support.
- Kandos High School - educational support, event sponsorship, work experience, transport sponsorship, Max Potential program.
- Kandos Public School - playground and learning infrastructure sponsorship and offer of educational support.
- Rylstone Public School - educational area and storage facility.
- University of New South Wales - post graduate programs.

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CURRENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMS

MAJOR SPONSORSHIPS

- Mudgee Wombats Rugby
- Rylstone Kandos Show
- Mudgee Rugby 7's Competition
- Mudgee District Netball Association
- Rylstone Street Feast
- KHS / Max Potential

SPONSORSHIPS

- Mudgee Chamber Awards
- Defibrillator for Kandos community
- Kandos Little Athletics
- Rylstone Kandos Volunteer Rescue Association
- Mudgee Show
- Gulgong Gold & Mining Festival
- Kandos Museum
- and others.

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FUTURE PROGRAMS

Local initiatives will continue and expand, based on the following core areas:

- **Education** - continue and expand upon our strong education policy with support across the range of educational institutions: local public schools, local high schools, TAFE, Universities and other higher education. Development of industry relevant local training and skills. Education and employment pathways, local apprenticeships and traineeships for young locals;
- **Community** - support to improve social facilities and areas of greater benefit for local communities such as: infrastructure enhancements, land use enhancement, charities and improved amenity and environment;
- **Sport** - support sporting organisations promoting team work, health and the wider social function to local communities;
- **Health and Safety** - support for organisations that provide rescue, emergency and health and services and the promotion of safety and wellbeing in the community; and
- **Arts and culture** - support for projects in areas such as indigenous cultural heritage, local history and community arts and cultural programs.

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EDUCATION & TRAINING IDEAS

- **Scholarships or opportunities**
- **Educational resource allowances or sponsorship.**
- **Local training program opportunities.**
- **Selection criteria and recipients driven by teacher and community members.**
- **Mentoring opportunities.**
- **Employment Readiness Programs.**
- **School excursions & learning opportunities.**
- **Work experience programs.**

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HEALTH & WELLBEING IDEAS

- Youth health programs - mental and physical health programs, social impacts.
- Local health care priorities and programs.
- First aid training in the communities.
- Bowdens Silver emergency facilities available locally.
- Bowdens Silver fire fighting assets available locally with bushfire management planning and volunteering opportunities.
- Water offtake access points along the extent of the Ulan-Bowdens water pipeline for firefighting.
- Support for sporting teams.
- Development of local charity and support programs.
- Volunteering within the community.
- Joint community initiatives with our partners (we partner with over 130 local businesses and local contractors).

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LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES & LAND USE IDEAS

- Planning Agreement with MWRC and fund allocation primarily for road maintenance.
- Relocation of Lue Waste Transfer Station with MWRC.
- Lue resident's power subsidy.
- Lue Community Hall revitalisation.
- Local history - capture, preserve and display.
- Local tourism.
- A local Lue shop – overwhelmingly popular for locals.
- Sponsorship programs for local activities, events and groups.
- Environmental conservation programs (in addition to Company biodiversity offset programs).

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COMMUNITY IDEAS?

Blake Hjorth

Community Liaison Officer

T: (02) 6373 6420

blakehjorth@bowdensilver.com.au

Site: 68 Maloneys Road, Lue NSW 2850

Post: PO Box 1115, Mudgee NSW 2850



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**Bowdens Silver Project Community Consultative Committee 2020
Annual Report**