

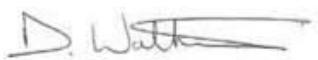


Bowdens Silver Project Community Consultative Committee

2019 Annual Report

Bowdens Silver Project Community Consultative Committee – 2019 Annual Report

Project: Bowdens Silver Project Community Consultative Committee
Reporting Period: December 2018 – December 2019
Independent Chair: Darryl Watkins
Support: Anna Sessink, Project Manager

Version	Author	Date	Authorised
1.0	Darryl Watkins	23/12/2019	

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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. The project is currently in the process of finalising the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), with the intent to lodge the EIS shortly with the Department of Planning and Environment, with a public exhibition phase to follow – providing the community with detailed information about the project.

This Report

The 2019 Annual Report, covers three meetings held over a 12 month period from January 2019 to December 2019, held on the following dates:

- Meeting 5, 18 February 2019
- Meeting 6, 27 June 2019
- Meeting 7, 24 October 2019

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 2019, the committee membership changed slightly with Mr James Armitage (Resident), and Mr Keith Perrett (Silver Mines Ltd.) stepping down from the committee. Thus, applications were received for membership to the CCC. Subsequently, Mr Phillip Freeman (Rylstone Kandos Chamber of Commerce), and Mr Blake Hjorth (Bowdens Silver) were appointed on the committee.

Committee Governance

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

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.

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

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 Bradley Bliss JP	CEO, Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Mick Boller	Lue Action Group
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 5	Meeting 6	Meeting 7	Attendance Total
Mr Blake Hjorth		✓	✓	2
Mr Anthony McClure	✓	✓	✗	2
Ms Jane Munro	✓	✓	✓	3
Mr Keith Perrett	✓	✗		1
Mr James Armitage	✗			0
Mr Bradley Bliss JP	✓	✓	✓	3
Mr Mick Boller	✗	✓	✓	2
Ms Sonia Christie	✓	✓	✓	3
Mr Tom Combes	✓	✓	✓	3
Ms Sally Dryburgh	✓	✓	✓	3
Mr Phillip Freeman			✓	1
Mr John Lydiard	✓	✓	✓	3
Cr John O'Neill	✓	✗	✓	2
Mr Darryl Watkins	✓	✓	✓	3

Table 2: BSPCCC Meeting Attendance

Note: Two members have resigned from the committee following Meeting 7. Ms Jane Munro (Bowdens Silver Pty Ltd) and Cr John O'Neill (Mid-Western Regional Council) are no longer members of the CCC. During the time of drafting this annual report, the Chair is in the process of filling the CCC member vacancies in light of the above two resignations.

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 5 18 February 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Welcome to Country, Welcome and Apologies · Apologies · Meeting 4 Action Items · Community Report and Feedback · Q&A and Discussion · Meeting Dates for 2019 · Agenda Items for Meeting 6 · General Business · Close Meeting
Meeting 6 27 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Welcome to Country, Welcome and Apologies · Code of Conduct · Meeting 5 Action Items · Community Open Day Report · EIS Lodgement Update · EPBC Act Referral · CCC Membership Update · Q&A and Discussion · Communication with Broader Community · Agenda Items for Meeting 7 · Final Comments · Close Meeting
Meeting 7 24 October 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Welcome to Country, Welcome and Apologies · Code of Conduct · Meeting 6 Action Items · CCC Membership Update · Bowdens Silver Project Update · 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 8 · Final Comments · Close Meeting

Table 4: Meeting Agenda Summaries

2019 Key Issues

Committee meetings focussed on a number of key issues during the 2019 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, Community Open Day held on 15 June 2019, 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 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	Consultant examinations and studies are close to being completed by the proponent in compliance with updated SEARs. Updates on these studies have been provided to the CCC.	The proponent and DPIE will provide detailed updates on the EIS and complimentary studies once the EIS is publicly exhibited.
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 Ulan Coal Mine, 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 in conjunction with the lodging of the EIS.
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 via CCC. Bowdens Silver will be undertaking an extensive engagement program in conjunction with the lodging of the EIS.
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 this issues has been raised at the CCC and have been discussed.	The proponent's heritage report will expound studies completed and this will 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 will present 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 in conjunction with the lodging of the EIS.
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 2018

2020 Focus Areas

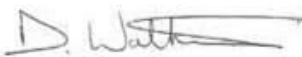
With the EIS being finalised, the focus of the 2020 meetings will be the lodging of the EIS with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and subsequent public exhibition.

The proponent has indicated that a significant community engagement program will be undertaken as part of the exhibition of the EIS, in addition to the regular BSPCCC meetings.

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:	23/12/2019

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 | Meeting Minutes

BSPCCC Meeting 5 Minutes

Meeting:	Bowdens Silver Project CCC - Meeting 5
Date:	Monday, 18 February 2019
Location:	Mid-Western Regional Council, 86 Market Street, Mudgee
Time:	5.00 – 7.00 PM
Independent Chair:	Darryl Watkins, KJA (DW)
Attendees:	Bradley Bliss J.P., Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (BB) Sonia Christie, Community Member (SC) Tom Combes, Community Member (TC) Sally Dryburgh, Community Member (SD) John Lydiard, Community Member (JL) Anthony (Tony) McClure, Silver Mines Ltd (TM) Jane Munro, Bowdens Silver (JM) Keith Perrett, Silver Mines Ltd (KP) Cr John O'Neill, Mid-Western Regional Council (JO) Marc Snape, KJA (MS)
Apologies:	James Armitage, Community Member (JA) Mick Boller, Lue Action Group (MB)

Actions

Action	Responsible
BB to provide details of guidelines in relation to Aboriginal Heritage reports to Bowdens.	Bradley Bliss
Bowdens to provide the committee with an updated landholders map.	Bowdens Silver
Bowdens to provide the committee with an updated infrastructure map.	Bowdens Silver
Bowdens to confirm the date of the information day.	Bowdens Silver
DW will liaise with CCC members to confirm the date of the next meeting.	KJA
DW committed to speaking to the NSW Department of Planning & Environment regarding a possible attendance at a future meeting.	KJA

Minutes

Minutes	Action
<p>Welcome (DW)</p> <p>The Chair welcomed members. BB gave Welcome to Country.</p> <p>The Chair reaffirmed the code of conduct.</p>	Note
<p>Apologies (DW)</p> <p>The Chair noted apologies from James Armitage and Mick Boller.</p>	Note
<p>Meeting 4 - Action Items (DW)</p> <p>The Action Items from Meeting 4 were reviewed by the Chair.</p> <p>All action items were completed and the Questions on Notice Register has been updated.</p>	Note
<p>Community Report and Feedback (TC)</p> <p>Tom Combes presented a Community Report to the committee.</p> <p>Tom circulated a Lue Action Group fact sheet (see Appendix B.1), and reported the key points of the fact sheet.</p>	Note
<p>Q&A and Discussion (ALL)</p> <p>SC asked a question about water use, particularly with the ongoing drought and the fish kills is highly relevant at the moment.</p> <p>DW commented that he understands many of the areas will be addressed in the EIS.</p> <p>TM advised that there will be an update on EIS timeframe under General Business.</p> <p>JO asked about the mine life, and whether it has always been 16 years?</p> <p>TC advised it has always been relatively short time frame.</p> <p>JO asked a question in relation to background lead standard measurement in people's system every day of the week would be as opposed to being close to the mine?</p> <p>TC advised that while he's not a lead expert, this more reflects a concern from the community due to the quantity of lead, and the proximity to people.</p> <p>TC advised that the information in the fact sheet was sourced from the feasibility study. While it is understood that these matters will be addressed in the EIS, unless the plan is going to change drastically from the EIS, community concerns won't be allayed.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Bowdens Silver have clarified that only a summary of the Feasibility Study has been publicly released, and that the full Feasibility Study is an internal document to Bowdens Silver.</p> <p>JL commented that until the final design in the EIS is known, the CCC could be talking at different ends and debating, but it can all change.</p> <p>TM noted that they are undertaking a process to brief and engage the entire community, not necessarily just the CCC.</p> <p>JM noted that Bowdens have done a lot of work on the EIS. The current focusing is on getting specialist consultant studies finished, and preparing the text and figures that can be done, while waiting for those reports to be finalised. The basic framework of the document is done, but still working with the consultants.</p> <p>The EIS is a cascading process. First the technical reports need to be done, which then forms the basis for other reports that follow. The technical reports are well advanced.</p>	

All of the technical consultants have done a baseline study of the environment. Data is in the process of being modelled, and Bowdens is expecting all of those technical reports to be completed in March. Once completed, they are then circulated to other consultants, who use their findings to complete further reports, including health, lead, aquatic ecology.

The existing health, lead and aquatic ecology reports will be prepared to draft stage in March-April, as will the agricultural impact statement

Soil and landscape capability and transport assessments are expected to be completed in March, but some updated soil stockpiling arrangements are still being finalised.

Completion of draft Aboriginal heritage report is reliant some land access arrangements that are still being finalised.

The visual impact consultant has been photographing from nearby residences in recent months to assess visual impact.

JM advised that Bowdens have had good responses from the community, with only two people who didn't want photos taken from their property.

All other assessments and reports have to be finalised before undertaking the Economic and Social Impact Assessment.

Prior to completing the Social Impact Assessment, there will be one-on-one consultations with affected landholders.

Bowdens is considering holding a community briefing day in April.

A peer review process will then follow, and is already underway in terms of existing environment and air quality reports.

Once the final reports become available, they will also go to peer review.

Groundwater report peer review has been ongoing for the last 18 months. The consultant has been involved in the process at all stages and making comments as required into that process.

The final review of the groundwater modelling and draft reports are planned to be completed March/April.

The surface water report peer review is due to be completed this month.

Health report peer review has not yet commenced, due to the staged process. That will commence once a draft health report is available for internal review, then peer review.

There are still some items where Bowdens is still finalising the design work – waste rock emplacement and also final capping and cover reports for waste rock and tailings storage facility. Bowdens is also working on detailed information to be provided to address the EPA's tailings dam policy, which has been recently developed subsequent to the issuing of the Bowdens Silver Project SEARS.

The current schedule is for a Draft Report to be available around May, and sometime after that the EIS will be submitted.

DW sought confirmation that the timeframe for the EIS submission is approximately mid-2019.

TM advised that it is hard to put a timeframe on the process, particularly due to the unknown timeframe of the peer review.

BB asked a question in relation to specialist consultant reports on Aboriginal heritage by Dr Matt Cupper. BB advised he had spoken to Dr Matt Cupper and raised concerns that Aboriginal groups have in relation to the draft report, and are seeking the opportunity to provide comment prior to the EIS.

BB advised he has also spoken to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), and believes draft heritage reports are meant to be published as a draft, then given to local Aboriginal groups for comment.

<p>JM requested the details of the guidelines that BB was referring to. BB committed to providing details.</p> <p>JL asked what would be discussed in one-on-one specialist meetings with potentially impacted residents. Residents next door to the mine site likely have very little idea what to discuss with a consultant expert in response to detailed reports.</p> <p>JM advised that the specialist would likely explain what has been found, and then collect any and all feedback. The expert could provide some details, and then discuss mitigation measures, which is one of the main purposes.</p> <p>SC asked if there would be any compensation measures or buybacks discussed.</p> <p>KP advised that Bowdens has always taken the approach of dealing directly with the individual. If one person says they want to stay here, the company will work with them on mitigations. If not, then discussions continue.</p> <p>TC asked a question in relation to water plans, whether there is an update in relation to the proposed pipeline coming from Ulan and going through properties, and what type of water would be included.</p> <p>JM responded that Bowdens are proposing a pipeline between the mine site and one of the sites in Ulan. The proposal keeps changing as the route is refined and more information is gathered. All landholders have been written to that are affected by the proposed pipeline path. Currently Bowdens is only seeking land access for ecological and biodiversity surveys. If those pathways are confirmed, easements will be required but that is down the track.</p> <p>The pipeline path is about 60km, and there has been approximately 12km of ecological surveying done so far. Bowdens is proposing a buried pipeline, and the water would be water from a coal mine in the Ulan area. The water is already licensed, so doesn't need to be separately licenced. In terms of quality, it's not pristine, but quality wise could otherwise be used for stock water. We will be recycling a lot of water in our operation. It will be decanted from the tailings storage facility and reused in the mining operation.</p> <p>JM advised she would seek further information about the current licensing and use of the water. Details will be provided when they become available.</p> <p>TC stated that a number of people want to know their options. Are they able to say no to the pipeline on their land?</p> <p>JM confirmed they have the ability to do that.</p> <p>TM noted that the NSW Government could also go through arbitration.</p> <p>BB advised that he had spoken to heritage consultant Dr Matt Cupper and seen then pipeline route. BB stated that he believed that because the surveying had not been completed, that it could potentially delay the heritage report for 3-4 months.</p> <p>JM advised that one of the things Bowdens have looked at is the topography and landscape of the route, and have planned the route to where it is unlikely to encounter heritage items.</p> <p>BB asked whether an Aboriginal person had been involved in the ecological surveys as Aboriginal heritage is not just sites, it's a holistic thing.</p> <p>JM advised she would pass on BB's feedback in relation to an Aboriginal consultant attending with the ecological survey to the consultant team.</p> <p>DW asked whether it would be worthwhile having Rob Corkery attend a meeting to address some of the issues that this forum has raised.</p> <p>TM stated that this could be considered, but the alternative is the open day, which will be happening prior to the EIS.</p> <p>KP advised Bowdens can look at the information as it comes to light and then plan around that.</p> <p>TC stated a lot of the problem is the timeline uncertainty, as the project has been going on a long time.</p>	<p>Action (BB)</p>
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<p>investigated. What we will put on the web is a refinement on that, with a balance between the detail and accessibility.</p> <p>TM advised that in the short term, Bowdens can provide an updated infrastructure map.</p> <p>JL noted that the 3d model information is exactly what will make people engaged on the open day.</p> <p>SD commented that information with less words and more pictures for the community would be great.</p> <p>BB asked whether power for the mine would be coming from Ilford or Crudine Ridge.</p> <p>TM advised that is still being finalised, but generally the connection from Ilford is the main connection. Power connection is not part of the EIS, it's a separate application. The site requires 132 KV which is generally what the main town connectors are, but connections through Kandos and Rylstone is only 66KV. The options will be shown in the EIS. Experts are looking at the path of less resistance – existing power line easement, rail easements, road easements – rather than creating something brand new.</p> <p>TC noted Bowdens' interest in expanding the buffer zone and whether the Stekhoven property was purchased because Bowdens thought the mine was going to impact that site?</p> <p>TM advised that in that general area, Bowdens holds most of the properties, but that eastern side (speaking very generally) has a pretty obvious visual impact.</p>	<p>Action (Bowdens)</p>
<p>Meeting Dates for 2019 (DW)</p> <p>TM noted that quarterly meetings are what the CCC was initially planned for but open for discussion.</p> <p>The committee agreed to a tentatively date of 6 May 2019 for the next meeting.</p> <p>Bowdens will confirm the date of the information day, and DW will then liaise with CCC members to confirm the date of the next meeting.</p>	<p>Action (Bowdens) Action (KJA)</p>
<p>Agenda Items for Meeting 6 (ALL)</p> <p>DW suggested a number of possible agenda items, including Rob Corkery presenting the EIS, a speaker from OEH, NSW Health, and Council.</p> <p>TM noted that the Council will be unlikely to comment until the EIS is finalised.</p> <p>DW committed to speaking to the NSW Department of Planning & Environment regarding a possible attendance at a future meeting.</p>	<p>Action (KJA)</p>
<p>General Business (ALL)</p> <p>JM noted that she had an item to discuss from staff at Bowdens. Following the August CCC meeting, it was discussed with staff that a CCC member had commented that they were looking through a site of a rifle at staff while carrying out their work duties. Workers have a right to be safe at work and not concerned about being looked at through a rifle scope. If anyone wants to look at our operations please use binoculars, not a telescopic rifle lens.</p> <p>TC advised the committee he is well experienced with firearms, and that the gun was not loaded, was not pointed at anyone with any malice, and there was no danger to anyone.</p>	<p>Note</p>
<p>Close Meeting</p> <p>Meeting was closed at 7pm.</p>	

Appendix B.1 | Lue Action Group Fact Sheet

* Note: Bowdens Silver have clarified that only a summary of the Feasibility Study has been publicly released, and that the full Feasibility Study is an internal document to Bowdens Silver.

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BOWDENS MINE FACT SHEET



MINE LIFE:

- Expected mine life is 16 years.

LEAD*

- Lead is a cumulative toxicant that affects multiple body systems and is particularly harmful to young children.
- Lead in the body is distributed to the brain, liver, kidney and bones. It is stored in the teeth and bones, where it accumulates over time. Human exposure is usually assessed through the measurement of lead in blood.
- Lead in bone is released into blood during pregnancy and becomes a source of exposure to the developing fetus.
- The open cut mine is proposed approximately **2km from Lue Public School and the village of Lue, and within 30km of the township of Mudgee.**

WASTE ROCK

- The proposed mine is estimated to create 48 million tonnes of waste rock. 54% of this is potentially acid forming (PAF). **PAF rock contains sulfides, which when disturbed can create sulfuric acid.**
- Sulfuric acid is toxic to aquatic life, and acid drainage from sulphide bearing rock is recognised as a **major source of heavy metal pollution to groundwater and surface water ways.** Heavy metals from the orebody below ground released by sulfuric acid will contaminate groundwater (and thus surface water) decades after mining stops if left unmanaged.
- The face height of the waste rock embankment is expected to be between 50m – 90m high, located above the Lawson Creek water table. The Lawson Creek flows into the Cudgegong River at Mudgee. The Cudgegong River flows into Burrendong Dam.

WATER USE

- Processing approximately 2 million tonnes of ore feed per year and running an estimated 7,000 hours. Approximately 300 tonnes per hour of dry feed, while running will require 0.7 megalitres of water/hr.
- Daily plant water requirement is estimated to be approximately 17 megalitres per day.
- Bowdens plan to take some water from bores on site and from the pit.
- All aquifers appear to be connected and this extraction is likely to impact bores within 5 km and baseflow to waterways.
- Any water taken from proposed external sources is expected to not return.
- No water must leave site. Therefore all water used at the mine will be taken from the system. Nil will return.

TAILINGS DAM

- The Tailings Storage Facility will have a dam wall approximately 56 metres high and 0.9 km long. At the widest point, the tailings dam will be 1.6km wide. The total footprint area (approximately 140 hectares) WILL impact downstream flows.
- Contents of the dam include:
 - Lead (16,000 tonnes)
 - Zinc (22,900 tonnes)
 - Silver (382 tonnes)
- Dam will also contain chemicals and heavy metals used in processing, include cyanide, arsenic, cadmium, copper and xanthates (lethal to aquatic life).
- **The tailings dam has no secondary wall in case of leakage or failure. The dam wall is not further than 1km from Lawsons Creek. Failure or leaking of the tailings dam would be catastrophic**
- **The tailings dam (and contents) will remain in situ forever. They cannot be moved once mining concludes. This will create a dangerous inter-generational legacy for Mudgee and surrounds.**

FREIGHT

- Proposed to move product by truck. Concentrate to be shipped in 20t containers. LAg estimated a mass split calculation, this would result in 17 outgoing truck loads per week.
- Add contractor and employee movements.
- Traffic, safety and associated noise and dust impacts are a major concern.

TOURISM & AMENITY

- Lue, and the Lue Road, is a key tourist artery connecting Mudgee to Rylstone.
- The Mudgee tourism industry is an established, sustainable and valuable feature of the local and regional economy (visitor economy valued at ~\$160 million last year)
- This is an entirely greenfields area, which currently sustains thriving tourism and agricultural enterprise (two of the 'engine industries' identified in the NSW Government's 20 Year Economic Vision for NSW).
- The NSW Government's 20 Year Economic vision identifies the Central West as a growth centre, and water security as a major priority for the state. The location, water intensity and dangerous chemicals and heavy metals associated with this project are at odds with this vision.

BALANCE

- Mudgee has the balance right at the moment, but this mine, which presents a toxic, intergenerational risk to Mudgee and all downstream residents, does not fit with the broader strategic economic plan for the town or the region, or the state.

Sources:

**Health impacts of lead – World Health Organisation <http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/lead-poisoning-and-health>*

**All calculations have been made using data presented in Silver Mines Limited Feasibility Study (dated 2 May 2018).*

BSPCCC Meeting 6 Minutes

Meeting:	Bowdens Silver Project CCC - Meeting 6
Date:	Thursday, 27 June 2019
Location:	Mid-Western Regional Council, 86 Market Street, Mudgee
Time:	5.00 – 7.30 PM
Independent Chair:	Darryl Watkins, KJA (DW)
Attendees:	Bradley Bliss J.P., Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (BB) Tom Combes, Community Member (TC) John Lydiard, Community Member (JL) Sally Dryburgh, Community Member (SD) Sonia Christie, Community Member (SC) Anthony (Tony) McClure, Silver Mines Ltd (TM) Blake Hjorth, Bowdens Silver (BH) Jane Munro, Bowdens Silver (JM) Mick Boller, Lue Action Group (MB) Anna Sessink, KJA (AS)
Apologies:	Cr John O'Neill, Mid-Western Regional Council (JO) Keith Perrett, Silver Mines Ltd (KP)

Actions

Action	Responsible
Darryl Watkins to invite the Department to the next meeting for a discussion	DW
Tony McClure to consider a neutral venue for the next community open day	TM

Minutes

Minutes	Action
<p>Welcome and Apologies (DW)</p> <p>The Chair welcomed members.</p> <p>The Chair noted apologies from John O'Neill and Keith Perrett. No apologies were received from James Armitage.</p> <p>BB gave Welcome to Country.</p>	<p>➤ No actions</p>
<p>Code of Conduct (DW)</p> <p>The Chair reaffirmed the Code of Conduct.</p>	<p>➤ No actions</p>
<p>Meeting 5 - Action Items (DW)</p> <p>The Action Items from Meeting 5 were reviewed by the Chair.</p> <p>Most action items were completed, and otherwise would be addressed during this meeting. The Questions on Notice Register has been updated.</p> <p>Given that he had missed the previous meeting, MB enquired about any answers to the dust sighting incident that was discussed previously.</p> <p>JM reported that the company had checked all available records, and there was no evidence of any excess dust issue at the drill site on the relevant date.</p> <p>TC stated that he believed the dust cloud incident was ignored during the last meeting, and instead, the focus was on the use of the rifle sight.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the issue was not disregarded, and concluded there was not enough evidence to confirm the sighting. This matter is now closed.</p>	
<p>Community Open Day Report (TM) – 20 minutes</p> <p>The Chair asked which CCC members had attended the Community Open Day on 15 June 2019.</p> <p>SD confirmed her attendance that day. SD's experience was very positive, and she was impressed by the accessibility and quality of information.</p> <p>TC advised that he had not attended the Community Open Day, and had felt discouraged by Bowdens not welcoming Lue Action Group members into the space wearing Lue Action Group t-shirts.</p> <p>TM stated that everyone was welcome and invited to the Community Open Day. However, protests were to be held outside the Bowdens property.</p> <p>The Chair expressed his disappointment with any committee members not attending that day, regardless of their opposing views. It was a good opportunity to have any questions answered. The Chair then sought clarity around Bowdens' policy regarding the entry requirements for the day.</p> <p>TC said to believe the Lue Action Group did not cause any disruption that day.</p> <p>TM reported that at a previous Community Open Day there were members of the Lue Action Group that were particularly aggressive and intimidated some consultants and local residents. TM advised that Bowdens wanted to avoid intimidation of their consultants. TM also noted that police had attended the protest location and was not called by Bowdens Silver.</p> <p>TC advised the Lue Action Group's intention is to create awareness about concerns. Members have concerns, and debate should be allowed.</p> <p>TM commented that the Community Open Day was a great success with a substantial turnout by local community members. There were approximately 100 guests, excluding Bowdens Silver staff and consultants. TM noted that only one</p>	

member of the CCC showed up and that no instructions were given to exclude anyone from the event.

TC asked TM if the t-shirts were considered disruptive, which TM confirmed.

JM stated that no-one was rejected during the Community Open Day, and in fact, a known Lue Action Group member entered, sat through the presentation and spent time with the consultants.

The Chair remarked that, as a committee member, TC could have phoned TM that day to seek clarification on the issue.

TC responded that he was wearing two hats that day. TC advised that the Lue Action Group should have been welcomed regardless of the t-shirts they were wearing.

JM advised that anyone not attending had missed out on receiving the best possible information to date. JM explained that for anyone not attending that day, comprehensive information is now available on the website. Regarding the Action Group t-shirt, JM replied it would bring disruption to an otherwise calm and informative session.

MB suggested that the Bowdens site was not a neutral venue to hold the event. MB did not attend the event as he was away that day, but would not have attended at the Bowdens venue regardless.

BB advised that he was interstate and thus unable to attend that day. BB did share event information with the aboriginal community and asked if any aboriginal community members attended that day.

TM and JM advised that they had not identified any members of the aboriginal community that day.

TM gave the presentation on the Community Open Day. A copy of TM's presentation is available in Appendix B.2.

TC and JL asked TM if any answers to the questions presented would be provided.

TM advised that these questions were almost entirely answered during the Community Open Day. These are logged and part of the Q&A in the EIS. TM then completed his presentation.

SC asked MB for the number of neighbours he had lost in the past 10 years. MB advised that he had lost several, and a range of names were recorded: The Greens; Ron & Anne Shanley; Ray & Elizabeth Stevenson; Ken Watson & Virginia King; Peter & Mrs Woods; Phil & Elaine Stekhoven.

SC advised that considering MB's observation, Lue may lose its sense of community if the lead mine goes ahead. SC noted that other local communities were deceived by promises of a booming community because of mines in the past. TM objected to SC calling the mine a lead mine. SC then called it a mineral mine and asked for further clarification around the terminology.

TM advised that the mine is not a lead mine, and is categorised as a silver mine with by-product credits. The distinction between coal and mineral mines is typically scale.

SC said to believe the extracted content is most relevant, including its by-products.

JL asked if the silver mine classification is based on dollar value, which TM confirmed.

BB came back to the community aspect and advised that the mining villages of Wollar, Bylong and Ulan had experienced a decline. BB suggested that reality would be different from the information on the slides presented by TM.

TM reported that the company has no intention of buying the Lue village.

<p>SC asked if Bowdens would be able to provide locals comfort by offering to buy them out for a certain price if they wished. TM took note of SC's point and thanked her for the input.</p> <p>TM then advised CCC members that in contrast with the past, regulations nowadays do not allow for such decline as experienced by the previously mentioned mining villages.</p> <p>TC noted that, to his understanding, Bowdens had communicated incorrect and insufficient communication towards the local community.</p> <p>BH disputed the claim and advised that truthful information was provided in relation to the lead figures during the Community Open Day.</p> <p>TC noted that the turnout that day was insufficient to convey information to the whole community.</p> <p>The Chair brought to TC's attention his letter that was published in the Mudgee Guardian on 26 June. The Chair believes that the letter is phrased unfairly and does not reflect information as discussed during CCC meetings.</p> <p>TC noted that he represents the community and aims to provide them with information that is neglected by Bowdens. TC then asked the Chair what parts of the letter to the Mudgee Guardian were inappropriate.</p> <p>The Chair answered that the letter did not reflect the facts raised in this CCC forum.</p> <p>TC advised that he believes he publicised the facts. TC noted Bowdens would be processing with cyanide. TC also declared that had been reading about cyanide recently and that if used correctly, there were no major issues.</p> <p>JM advised that all details can be found in the EIS and summary document.</p> <p>TC noted that people are reluctant to read the summary document, and said to doubt that people would read the full EIS document.</p> <p>SC raised the topic of biodiversity offset and thanked JM for fulfilling all the requirements. SC shared her worries about the policy failing to result in like-for-like offsetting and instead would result in a nett loss of biodiversity. SC noted that even though Bowden acts according to regulations, it is still not a good outcome for the environment.</p> <p>The committee members agreed to raise this concern with the Department. The Chair committed to inviting the Department to the next meeting for a discussion.</p> <p>JL questioned how one offsets by buying land that was already existing. Would it not be best to buy open grassland and diversify that to offset?</p> <p>JM responded that planting is an oversimplification. SC noted that native habitat cannot be easily replicated.</p> <p>JM concluded that Bowdens needs to abide by government policy, whether considered positive or negative.</p> <p>BB mentioned he had worked on environmental offset in the past, where several properties with ecological communities were bought and enhanced. BB noted that nobody monitors the situation.</p>	<p>Action (DW)</p>
<p>EIS Lodgement Update (JM)</p> <p>JM advised that the SEARs were initially issued late 2016, and updated in 2017. Another revision was received on 21 June 2019 and published on the Bowden Silver website. Bowdens has yet to digest the document fully.</p> <p>JM provided details on the current status of reports. JM noted that Bowdens is in the process of reviewing all specialist consultant reports. All reports are completed, apart from the economic, health and social impact reports. Bowdens expect to submit the EIS for adequacy review by early August, from which they expect no issues. Full submission of the EIS to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is planned a month or two from August.</p>	

<p>BB noted that, from his understanding, only part of the survey for the pipeline was completed, and the aboriginal community has not received draft specialist reports for comments. BB mentioned a minimum of 28 days is required to review drafts, and 5 days to review a final version. BB said to expect this may affect Bowdens' timeline.</p> <p>JM advised that these same points have been raised previously by BB and Bowdens Silver has responded to them. The points have been considered by Bowdens Silver's specialist consultant Matt Cupper.</p> <p>BB noted that the aboriginal communities and parties would object if no draft specialist reports will be released for comment.</p> <p>JM advised that this issue could not be resolved at this meeting. JM noted that Bowdens is very close to finalising the draft reports with the consultants.</p> <p>BB enquired about the remaining tracts of land to be surveyed.</p> <p>JM explained that for the EIS submission, at least 80% of the length of the pipeline need to be surveyed (which is completed).</p> <p>The Chair asked if the updated SEARs contained any surprises. JM answered that nothing unexpected was found so far. SC questioned if the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment referrals had slowed the process down. JM responded that it did to some extent.</p> <p>TC asked on what legal basis Bowdens could force through the construction of the pipeline without landowners' consent. JM explained that no such proposal exists. The surveys conducted to date have been for the purpose of the environmental impact assessment only.</p> <p>TC mentioned that he has a Statutory Declaration of a landowner whose land comprises 27km of the proposed pipeline and claims not to approve the pipeline. TC then mentioned that other landowners would refuse access too.</p> <p>JM explained that significant sections of the proposed pipeline route are located on Council road reserves. Council has been consulted and is generally in agreement with the proposal, subject to the requirements of the updated SEARs</p> <p>TC asked for clarification as he has heard landowners stating disapproval. Jane Munro explained the current map is indicative only and Bowdens will work around landowners who do not permit access.</p> <p>BB stated that a 100% survey rate is normally required in this region. BB said to believe the aboriginal community will raise issues regarding freehold land along the route that may contain heritage.</p> <p>JM advised that if the pipeline is to be constructed on any land which has not yet been surveyed, then surveys will be conducted prior to construction.</p> <p>TC asked what chance of success is anticipated for the pipeline to go ahead. JM answered that it is a process that will continue.</p> <p>TM advised that with the surface water and groundwater assessments, the company decided not to consider taking water from local surface water sources including creeks, streams and rivers. The company also decided not to consider water sourced from local dams or processed water from Mudgee. In addition, the company decided that it would not source process water from bores. TM advised that the State views the mine not relying on local water as a positive outcome.</p> <p>BB asked if any water supply agreements have been agreed with mines in Moolarben and Ulan. Tony McClure answered this is not disclosed but that dialogue is in process with both mines.</p> <p>SC asked if JM had followed up on a question raised in the previous meeting, what the exact source of water is for the proposed pipeline. JM took the Question on Notice.</p> <p>JL enquired where water would be sourced from in case the pipeline would not suffice.</p>	<p>Questions on Notice (JM)</p>
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<p>JM noted that it would be a serious issue. And although no water has been guaranteed, JM advised, the question is irrelevant as a sufficient quantity of water is available.</p> <p>TM advised that, theoretically, they would use bore water. However, Bowdens has elected not to go down that path. JL expressed worries about the water having to be sourced from somewhere else if the pipeline fails to supply enough water.</p> <p>TM disputed JL's argument by advising that the project is reliant on pipeline water.</p> <p>BB expressed reservations about Blue Springs Road farms that were affected by coalmine boreholes. BB advised that less water is available than one might believe. TM responded that he could not speak for other mines.</p> <p>JL advised to be extremely cautious as his property is located downstream of the creek and his property is sensitive to effects on creek levels.</p> <p>TM answered individual situations would be investigated and compensated for. Bowdens has obligations towards any neighbours experiencing material effects.</p> <p>JL voiced concerns about solutions being post the problem.</p> <p>SC asked what would happen after the mining has ceased? JM answered that impacts will be managed until conditions are back to natural levels. JM stated environmental conditions of consent would be revealed if the Development Application gets approved.</p> <p>MB asked what evidence would be required to indicate whether an impact on local residents is considered or not. JM took this Question on Notice.</p> <p>TC added up the number of litres surface water to be extracted for the mine and rounded the number to 800ML. TC asked if TM found these numbers acceptable.</p> <p>TM reaffirmed that TC missed his opportunity to speak with the water consultant on the Community Open Day, where detailed modelling work provided comprehensive answers on the topic.</p> <p>TC asked for understanding after 30 years of ongoing mining propositions. JL supported TC by reaffirming his concerns about irreversible damage.</p> <p>TM advised that any negative effects will be dealt with as part of the process and that Bowdens has access to quality water. JL said he would not accept Bowdens' saline water.</p> <p>The Chair proposed for Bowdens to make available time with consultants to answer the committee's questions. TM objected as significant investments were made in the community open day to answer any questions.</p> <p>TM suggested answering questions at the next CCC meeting. Any questions from CCC members can be raised via the Chair or via the company's online portal.</p> <p>The Chair noted to TC that during their first discussion, TC said he was ambivalent to the project. The Chair asked TC if this compromised his role.</p> <p>TC advised that as much as he tries to be impartial, he is pretty much opposed to the project now.</p> <p>TC said that he gathers information from CCC meetings to try answer questions honestly. TC advised that the further the project progresses, the more the community finds its ground. TC argued that he is allowed to express his own opinion.</p> <p>The Chair asked the CCC if they still find the CCC workable.</p> <p>TC advised that he would leave the committee if needed, but asked for the Chair's opinion on what part of the letter he wrote to the Mudgee Guardian he believed was wrong.</p> <p>JL referred to Mudgee's biggest activist who is part of several committees and claimed that committee members do not have to be completely neutral.</p>	<p>Questions on Notice (JM)</p>
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<p>The Chair advised that TC can stay on the committee if the committee agrees. TC said to believe he can play a valuable role in representing the community. TC advised that the opposing views create a balance in the committee.</p> <p>The Chair advised that this may be the case. However, there is also a fine line on spreading misinformation across the community.</p> <p>TM read TC's letter to the Mudgee Guardian (Appendix B). TM advised that TC's role is the dissemination of information provided within the CCC. The letter would be misleading, factually incorrect and scaremongering. TM advised that it is up to the Chair to decide if the information communicated was fact or opinion.</p> <p>TC disputed by claiming that lead will be mined. TM replied that TC had lied about it in the press.</p> <p>SD advised that she had learned during the community open day that a certain amount of lead exists in the environment nonetheless. The extra due to the mine is relatively very small.</p> <p>TC said to rely on different experts, such as Barry Noller,</p> <p>JM responded that the data that the company's consultants have based their assessments on for the EIS is the best data that has ever been available on the project, and they have used the very detailed operational plans which also have never before been available. JM stated that Barry Noller wrote his report some 5 years ago, having none of the company's monitoring data and based on a proposed operation very different from the Bowdens Silver proposal.</p> <p>TM added that Barry Noller, although an expert in his field, has not had any contact with the company or specialist consultants, has not been to the site and has not reviewed the current data."</p> <p>The Chair proposed to move on to the next agenda item.</p>	
<p>EPBC Act Referral (DW)</p> <p>The Chair referred to the EPBC Act Referral and found it was lodged without being shared within the CCC before. The Chair said to be disappointed and asked if Bowdens wanted to respond to that.</p> <p>JM advised that Bowdens had not consciously thought about whether or not to notify the CCC in advance of the referral. It had never been raised as being of interest to the CCC.</p> <p>The Chair noted that any federal or state referral that requires public submission should be shared with the CCC.</p>	
<p>CCC Membership Update (DW)</p> <p>The Chair advised that JA has not attended for 3 consecutive meetings. The Chair initiated contact but has received no response. The CCC guidelines recommend that the Chair may request the replacement of any member who fails to attend 3 consecutive CCC meetings. In light of the Chair having not received any responses from JA, it will be appropriate that he is removed from the CCC.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the position is open for applications, and 3 applications have been received so far from the recent advertisement. The applicants will be assessed under the Department's criteria, and a new committee member will be introduced at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Q&A and Discussion (ALL)</p> <p>Any Q&As were addressed throughout the meeting.</p>	

<p>Communication with Broader Community (ALL)</p> <p>The Chair asked if the committee believes any improvements can be made to communication with the broader community.</p> <p>MB suggested that the next Community Open event should be held in a neutral venue. BB and JL agreed.</p> <p>TM stated that, although appropriate facilities are available at the Bowdens Silver site, they will consider this for the next community open day, which may be about 3 months away.</p>	<p>Action (TM)</p>
<p>Agenda Items for Meeting 7 (DW)</p> <p>The CCC members agreed to meet before the EIS lodgement, on Thursday 19 September 2019. The Department will be invited to the meeting.</p>	
<p>Final Comments (DW)</p> <p>MB asked a range of questions on behalf of several community members. The following questions were asked and taken on notice by JM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are Bowdens' air quality modelling criteria for the mine, and what is the average period (weekly/monthly/annual)? - As there is no safe threshold for Pb and PM2.5, and similarly no safe threshold has ever been established for the other toxic metals – how will Bowdens know they will not exceed the Zero dust deposition as claimed? - Is Bowdens willing to participate in a public medical debate with professional medical consultants in the fields of clinical pharmacology, general medicine/kidney diseases, neurology, and paediatrics? - Regarding the tailings dam – will Bowdens be following the international standards set by the International Council on mineral and metals? They make it clear that mining companies should be using dry stacking instead of wet tailings. It is a safer option, but more expensive. - Bowdens states in its brochure that impact assessment outcomes that seepage from the TSF and lined waste rock emplacement would be collected and recycled and reused in processing. How is seepage collected? A low permeability compacted clay liner would limit seepage from TSF, so what does Bowden exactly mean with the limit? On the map, they only identify the non-acid forming rock, not waste rock that is potentially acid-forming. <p>MB asked if it is correct that no compensation will be offered for landowners that live along the pipeline. TM answered that is not entirely correct.</p> <p>TC asked what acoustic treatments are offered to affected residents. TM answered that a range of solutions would be available, including double glazing, roof mechanisms, air conditioning, and elimination of gaps.</p> <p>TC asked what type of measures would be taken outdoors.</p> <p>TM answered that, among other things, there would be barriers to the mine site. Measures would be site-specific. The company's position is comprehensive and exceeds the requirements.</p>	<p>Questions on Notice (JM)</p>
<p>Close Meeting</p> <p>The Chair thanked CCC members for their attendance and apologised for the delay. The meeting was closed at 7.30 pm.</p>	



BOWDENS **SILVER**

Community Consultative Committee

27 June 2019



COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

The following are comments as provided by members of the public to R. W Corkery & Co., Specialty Consultants and Bowdens Silver staff at the Bowdens Silver Open Day on 15th June 2019.

COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

General Comments

“It was nice to hear the actual facts about the Project. The Company is trying to be transparent and open about everything, whereas the Lue Action Group is spreading misinformation.”

“There’s a lot of good information here.”

“It was good to be able to talk to the experts.”

“At least the Company is open and transparent about the impacts.”

“We value the many friends we have in the area and don’t want that to change by relocating out of the area.”

“The timing before the EIS is on exhibition; the approvals process; the likely timeframe to a decision.”

“It’s a shame the approvals process is overly complicated and takes so much time to get good projects like yours underway.”

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COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Protest Issues

“We felt intimidated by the mine protestors as we approached the Bowdens site today.”

“The mine protestors made it hard to travel safely along Maloneys Road.”

“I was surprised to see the opponents to the mine restricting access for people wanting to travel to the open day – especially in our small community.”

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COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Water

“Our concerns previously raised have largely been addressed by the water supply pipeline.”

“Can I access water from the water supply pipeline for my stock?”

“I am concerned about the transfer of water from Goulburn River sources to the Mine Site.”

“I am relieved that our bore will be outside of the drawdown area.”

“We are concerned about reduced flows in Lawsons Creek as a result of groundwater flowing into the open cut pit.”

“What diameter will the pipeline be and will it be buried?”

“Where will the fire-fighting points be along the pipeline?”

“How wide will the pipeline corridor be?”

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COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Noise and Vibrations

“We would like to understand how noisy 35dB(A) and 40dB(A) would be.”

“What if the noise predictions are wrong, like they were at Wollar? Have any comparisons been made between noise predictions and actual noise levels?”

“Our residence is located well to the east of the Mine Site, silence is very precious to us. Motor bikes can be heard at times on the weekends.”

“What would be the noise criteria and noise levels from the mine in Lue village during the day and night-time?”

“Will the mine be audible beyond the 25dB(A) noise contour shown on your map?”

“My home is of a solar passive design and therefore not suitable for acoustic treatments. Noise from the mine would remain deafening.”

“I am not unduly concerned being within the 1-2dBA noise impact zone from the Mine Site.”

“What will be the difference between the mine operating noise criteria and that for blasting?”

“How will blast scheduling occur to avoid adverse weather conditions?”

“We are concerned about potential mine related traffic (and noise) through Lue village, but somewhat relieved by the proposed relocated Maloneys Road.”

“What will be the effect of the blasts on our home, outbuildings and concrete tanks.”

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COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Air Quality

“How will blast scheduling occur to avoid adverse weather conditions?”

“What is in the dust?”

“What metals are in the dust?”

“I am concerned regarding drinking water from my rainwater tank.”

“How far will the dust travel from the Mine?”

“What distance have you modelled air quality from the Mine Site?”

Health

“What level of lead would we be exposed to in Lue?”

“How will the lead from the mine enter bodies?”

“How will the exposures to lead in Lue compare to those in Mt Isa?”

“I am pleased to hear that there are no toxicity issues from the mine.”

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COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Visibility and Lighting

“How have the cross-sections been prepared between the Mine Site and the residences?”

“Will there be sufficient topsoil to put on the final landform to adequately vegetate the areas disturbed and make the Mine Site visually acceptable?”

“We enjoy a clear dark sky – what would change when the mine is operational through a night glow.”

“Will the lighting on the mine affect astronomy activities at Breakfast Creek?”

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COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Operations

“What chemicals are used in the processing route.”

“Will the mine operate 24/7?”

“Where is the processing plant?”

“What is the life of the mine?”

“What chemicals will be in the tailings?”

“Will the roads be asphalt or dirt?”

Project Extensions

“There are significant exploration licence areas.”

“Where else do you intend to explore around Lue?”

“When will you know whether you will develop a mine around Barabolar?”

“Great to hear there could be other discoveries in the region.”

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COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Rehabilitation

“When will the Company sell the land around the mine (outside the Mine Site) and areas that are rehabilitated?”

“Will the Company hold on to the land which is covered by the TSF, WRE and open cut in perpetuity?”

“Will the final lake be suitable for water sports?”

“What are Bowdens Silver’s obligations relating to rehabilitation?”

“Will the Company have to pay a guarantee bond for rehabilitation?”

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COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Employment/Local Business

“Local employment at the mine would mean my son could return from interstate.”

“We are very keen to supply fuel and other consumables to Bowdens Silver now and in the future.”

“When can we apply for a job?”

“Our children are leaving because there are no jobs.”

“How much training will you give to a local farmer?”

“This mine is what I need to make my business viable as it isn’t quite there yet.”

“The mine would help to reverse the current decline in jobs in the local area, especially for those not academically inclined.”

“How many jobs will be created by the mine and what type?”

“Our community needs jobs.”

“Will the Company support local people in traineeships and apprenticeships?”

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COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Other Comments

“What are the requirements for land acquisition and mitigation?”

“Where will the keeping place be for the Aboriginal artefacts?”

“Do you take into account the use of vegetation for breeding when considering its value for an offset?”

“The 3D model is incredible.”

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COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

At the Open Day of 15th June 2019, Bowdens Silver announced the impending set up of the Community Investment Program.

The Committee to be set up with local membership specifically to decide 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

- Lue Public School - IT sponsorship, water bore, garden, new bus, educational support.
- Kandos High School - educational support, event sponsorship, work experience, transport sponsorship.
- 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

- Mudgee Wombats Rugby
- Rylstone Kandos Show
- Mudgee Show
- Rylstone Street Feast
- Mudgee Reader's Festival
- Gulgong Gold & Mining Festival
- Mudgee Rugby 7's Competition
- Mudgee District Netball Association
- Mudgee Clock Awards
- Defibrillator for Kandos community
- Rotary
- Waratahs Rugby in conjunction with MWRC
- Rylstone Kandos Volunteer Rescue Association

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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.

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

- Lue Community Hall revitalisation.
- Local history - capture, preserve and display.
- Local tourism.
- Relocation of Lue Waste Transfer Station with MWRC.
- A local Lue shop – overwhelmingly popular during SIA interviews.
- Sponsorship programs for local activities, events and groups.
- Environmental conservation programs (in addition to Company biodiversity offset programs).
- VPA (Voluntary Planning Agreement) with MWRC and fund allocation.

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BSPCCC Meeting 7 Minutes

Meeting:	Bowdens Silver Project CCC - Meeting 7
Date:	Thursday, 24 October 2019
Location:	The Stables Meeting Room, 82 Market Street, Mudgee
Time:	5.00 – 7.00 PM
Independent Chair:	Darryl Watkins, (DW)
Attendees:	Bradley Bliss J.P., Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (BB) Tom Combes, Community Member (TC) John Lydiard, Community Member (JL) Sonia Christie, Community Member (SC) Sally Dryburgh, Community Member (SD) Mick Boller, Lue Action Group (MB) Philip Freeman, Chamber of Commerce Kandos-Rylstone (PF) Cr John O'Neill, Mid-Western Regional Council (JO) Blake Hjorth, Bowdens Silver (BH) Jane Munro, Bowdens Silver (JM) Korena Flanagan, (KF) Independent Minute Taker
Apologies:	Anthony (Tony) McClure, Silver Mines Ltd (TM)

Actions

Action	Responsible
DW to provide update to MB regarding correspondence.	DW
Clarification of who makes decision regarding exhibition timing	DW
DW to invite the Department of Planning and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust to the next meeting	DW
Provide information about water diversion.	JO
Provide information about water table impacts to JL.	BH
Investigate placement of information materials in the Rylstone council chambers.	BH
Provide copies of the community newsletter to PF.	BH
Advise DW if TM is unable to attend the next meeting	JM
Open invitation to PF for a project introduction briefing from Bowdens Silver	PH/JM/BH

Minutes

Minutes	Action
<p>Welcome and Apologies (DW)</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the CCC members and thanked them for their attendance.</p> <p>The Chair noted apologies from Anthony McClure.</p> <p>BB gave Welcome to Country.</p>	
<p>Code of Conduct (DW)</p> <p>The Chair reaffirmed the Code of Conduct.</p>	
<p>Meeting 6 - Action Items (DW)</p> <p>The Chair reviewed the Action Items from Meeting 6.</p> <p>DW advised that he invited the Department. The Department advised that its usual process was to attend during the EIS public exhibition process or post the public exhibition. This enabled them to address issues and questions around the process. DW advised he would invite them again to the next meeting in early 2020.</p> <p>Regarding a neutral venue for the next Open Day, JM noted that TM is aware and would consider an appropriate location when the next event was planned, but there has been no date set for the next event.</p>	
<p>CCC Membership Update (DW)</p> <p>The Chair advised that Keith Perrett had resigned from the committee and welcomed BH as a permanent member of the committee.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed PF.</p> <p>PF and BH provided the Committee information about their respective backgrounds and reasons they wanted to join the CCC.</p>	
<p>Bowdens Silver Project update (DW)</p> <p>MB sought clarification about correspondence regarding comments that had been made by TM about the Lue Action Group in relation to the Open Day. MB asked that receipt of the correspondence be recorded in the minutes.</p> <p>DW apologised for being unaware of the correspondence and the oversight and undertook to provide an update to MB privately.</p> <p>MB briefed the Committee on the background to the correspondence. He further noted that there were two Open Days held by Bowdens on 7th May 2017 and another on 15th June 2019.</p> <p>He noted that there had been six subsequent meetings of the CCC and the issue had never been raised. He noted the dates of these meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9th May 2017 - 5th September 2017 - 14th February 2018 - 10th April 2018 - 14th August 2018 - 13th February 2019 <p>MB also reported that at the 27th June 2019 CCC meeting aggressive behaviour at a previous Community Open Day event was noted.</p>	<p>DW to provide update to MB regarding correspondence.</p>
<p>EIS Update (JM)</p> <p>JM provided an update on the progress of the EIS, noting that it was taking longer than anticipated.</p>	

<p>JM reported that the Board was now beginning to think beyond the EIS – with work beginning on pre-planning and pre-development stages of the project concurrently with preparation of the EIS.</p> <p>She reported that work on feasibility and optimisation would be on-going throughout 2020, while the EIS would be finalised and submitted to the Department for an adequacy review. JM provided an explanation of the adequacy review process to the Committee – explaining that the Department would review the EIS as prepared by the company to make sure that it had adequately addressed the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).</p> <p>JM reported that the process should be completed in the next few months, there was no fixed date for submission of the EIS but the company was very close to completion.</p> <p>The feasibility and optimisation process will look at reducing operating and capital costs, with the company looking to optimise operating costs to \$10 an ounce.</p> <p>JM reported that TM had been in the US and will be heading to Asia and Europe to negotiate financing.</p> <p>The company is also talking to potential customers and suppliers for development of the major componentry.</p> <p>It is also looking at employment and engineering for the project, with JM noting that the company wants to employ as many local people as it can.</p> <p>These processes would ramp up and continue while EIS process is underway, with JM noting that the EIS process can take some time – in some cases up to two years.</p> <p>JM reported that the company was confident the project would be approved.</p> <p>BH provided an update on the company's exploration activities.</p> <p>He reported that a gravity survey was completed and that the company was hoping to do more drilling. Geologists want to test further to identify where mineralisation comes from and identify if there is a higher grade at both Bowdens and Barabolar. Also looking at doing some exploration at Tuena.</p> <p>JM provided PF with background information. DW noted that if PF wants a further briefing that the company will facilitate.</p>	<p>PF/JM/BH</p>
<p>Q&A and Discussion (ALL)</p> <p><u>Questions regarding the EIS process report to the CCC:</u></p> <p>BB asked again about survey reports for the pipeline of which the local indigenous community had not received copies. He said that under indigenous community consultation guidelines the reports are supposed to be provided to the community for comment.</p> <p>BB said that the company has said that the 2nd August report is basically what they will include in EIS. Yet the indigenous community has not been provided with a copy of the water pipeline survey report.</p> <p>BB noted that the community has requested information formally and has also requested a meeting but is yet to receive a response and that the community was beginning to express concern.</p> <p>JM responded that the company had sought advice from its consultant regarding the issue and was advised that what has been provided meets requirements. She noted that BB has a different view. She assured BB that the meeting would occur and that a date had not yet been set.</p> <p>DW asked for clarification about how the issue and current impasse can be progressed.</p>	<p>Clarification of who makes decision regarding exhibition timing - DW</p> <p>DW to ask Biodiversity Conservation Trust to come to the next meeting</p> <p>JO to provide information about water diversion.</p> <p>BH/JM to provide information about</p>

<p>BB and JM agreed that the issue would need to be addressed during the EIS process as JM maintained that the company's consultants advised the process had been undertaken correctly.</p> <p>BB asked about remaining 20 per cent pipeline that is yet to be surveyed. He reported that traditional knowledge holders report that this area contains areas of cultural significance and that they have raised the possibility of taking the company to the Land and Environment Court.</p> <p>JM acknowledged that the issue had been raised before. She reported that linear infrastructure was dealt with differently in the EIS process. She reported that the Department had advised the company that it will accept surveys of 80 per cent of the pipeline route for the purpose of the EIS. She advised the committee that there will be consent conditions attached to the project should it be approved. She assured the committee that the remaining 20 per cent of the pipeline route would be surveyed. She reported that the company would love to hear from the community in advance regarding areas that may be of concern. There was a discussion about cultural sensitivity of revealing the areas and their purpose.</p> <p>JM and BH reported that the survey would occur when it is required and the pipeline would be diverted if required.</p> <p>BB asked about Ulan Coal having to provide farmers with water.</p> <p>JM reported she had heard this, but that was a matter for Ulan Coal.</p> <p>SC raised exploration at Barabolar. She noted that the community was concerned because whenever the company mentions exploration there it impacts property prices.</p> <p>BH noted that this area was only at exploration stage, and it was very early in the process.</p> <p>BH reported that he speaks to a lot of people in the area to explain the exploration work and that the company was yet to identify a mineable resource.</p> <p>DW asked for clarification of the location. BH reported that it is about 10 kilometres further north and that it was historic work over time because it is in the company's exploration licence area.</p> <p>MB asked why the company alters the name of localities.</p> <p>BH reported that the company's geologist came up with the name.</p> <p>MB noted that local people do not like it. SC reported that the naming issue causes concern because it is not specific to a place. JM reported that it was the culture of geologists to name places in which they were undertaking survey work.</p> <p>DW asked for clarification of EIS lodgement timing. JM reported that the company is unable to provide a definitive timeline but that it would be close to the end of the year. She reported that submission of the EIS for adequacy review would definitely occur this year for Departmental review. Timing on the public exhibition of the final EIS would then depend on the Department and any additional work required from the adequacy review. She reiterated that she could not provide a specific time, but that the EIS would be submitted for adequacy review before the end of the year.</p> <p>TC noted that KP had provided a commitment to the CCC that the company would not submit the EIS in the lead-up to Christmas. JM confirmed that public exhibition of the EIS would not occur over Christmas.</p> <p>DW further explained the adequacy review process and how it could impact timing for the EIS exhibition.</p> <p>SC asked for clarification around the public exhibition period – noting that the EIS should be exhibited for 60 days, not 30 days.</p> <p>DW reported that he had sought clarity from the Department on the issue and Departmental officers had advised they would make a decision regarding exhibition length upon receipt of the EIS.</p> <p>JL reported that KP advised it was a decision for the company.</p>	<p>water table impacts to JL.</p> <p>BH to investigate placement of information materials in the Rylstone council chambers.</p> <p>BH to provide copies of the community newsletter to PF.</p>
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<p>DW said he will seek further clarification from the Department.</p> <p>PF sought clarity around EIS process and how requirements and community concerns are addressed in EIS. JM explained the EIS process in detail.</p> <p>DW asked BH for an update on community consultation since the last CCC meeting.</p> <p>BH reported the company had been talking to people along the pipeline route and talking to people about monitoring reports.</p> <p>MB asked if any of those conversations had occurred with CCC members from Lue.</p> <p>BH confirmed he had discussed with JL.</p> <p>MB noted that no-one from the Lue community had told him that they had spoken to the company.</p> <p>BH noted that he has had discussions with land holders in the nearby area.</p> <p><u>General questions:</u></p> <p>SC noted that the date for this CCC meeting was not on the company's website.</p> <p>BH noted that SC had raised that and that it was fixed as soon as it had been raised and apologised for the oversight.</p> <p>SC noted correspondence that had been sent to DW.</p> <p>SC noted Item 6.1 of the scoping report regarding community consultation for the pipeline. She noted that the pipeline had been discussed at previous CCC meetings. She further noted that the item says that that the company had consulted with the community at the CCC and information stands and that there were no objections and that overall the community response had been positive. She questioned the accuracy of this statement given comments from CCC members in previous meetings.</p> <p>JM asked if CCC members could point to an objection in the minutes.</p> <p>SC reported that the overall feeling was not necessarily positive and that she believed it was a misrepresentation to say that it was discussed with CCC members and that there was no objection.</p> <p>JM noted that the scoping report is a point in time and that the Department understands that there is more work to do to talk to people about the pipeline. JM noted that she did not hear an objection and that scepticism or a lack of confidence is not an objection. JM asked SC to clarify if she was more concerned about reference to a positive response. SC reiterated that she did not think it accurate.</p> <p>SC noted that Moolarben modification 15 EIS had been submitted and that there was no mention of water from this project going to Bowdens and that it is bad for the project if there is not water.</p> <p>JM responded that it would be a matter for Moolarben Coal.</p> <p>JL asked for clarification of this response asking if it was a matter for the company if it doesn't have access to water.</p> <p>JM reported that there were commercial discussions on-going. She noted that Moolarben's modification submission is a matter for them and that Bowdens had no response.</p> <p>JL sought to clarify if this meant Bowdens would still be getting water from Moolarben.</p> <p>SC noted that this issue does impact the wider community.</p> <p>JL noted that without water the Bowdens mine could not go ahead.</p> <p>CCC members asked JO if he could provide an update on water diversions. He said he would come back to the meeting with more information.</p>	
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Communication with Broader Community (ALL)

DW asked CCC members if they had any feedback on issues community members wanted to raise.

PF reported that people in his community were not clear about issues including water and what is being mined and that answers to these questions are not readily available. For example, people were concerned they did not understand if there would be damage to the water table now and into the future and that people were looking for succinct answers and supporting evidence. He reported that members of the Chamber of Commerce were not necessarily for or against the mine but were seeking clarification on issues especially water. They do not want to see the mine go wrong in terms of water impacts and wanted to understand where to draw the line and if those lines would be drawn before mining starts.

DW noted that a lot of those questions are yet to be answered because the company was still undertaking work to determine the answers.

JM responded that planning a mine takes a long time. Once initial planning is done, then work needs to be undertaken to predict environmental impact then work is done on how to mitigate and control impacts, noting that this is a huge process and the company is still waiting on some reports that close off some of those issues. She explained that the company will then provide the reports to the Government as part of the EIS. If the project is approved then all government departments that have an interest will contribute to this process by putting further requirements on the project called consent conditions. The EPA issues licences that provide limits and company will be held accountable for meeting those limits. The expectation of having specific answers is unrealistic at this stage but all this information will be included in the EIS.

DW advised PF that outside of CCC meetings he was able to go directly to the company to clarify issues his community has raised or on which he would like information. This offer still stands for all CCC members.

JO asked about the status of a computer model of the mine.

BH reported that it was close to finalisation. At the Open Day the company had a first draft of a model and that it has been under further development since June. He reported that the concept is that people will be able to move around and look at the mine from different perspectives at certain time points. The company is investigating how to best host the site to provide access to the community.

TC noted that the picture on the latest update brochure issued by Bowdens was of his property and that he was annoyed about it.

BB asked about end-of-life rehabilitation of the mine site.

JM advised she had not looked at the specific report in relation to rehabilitation. She reported that a local Landcare group had been asked for input but they had chosen not to provide it. She confirmed that the company wanted to do the best they can and that this was a common theme from consultation.

SC asked if modelling was adapted to take climate change into consideration.

JM advised it was and that three or four different scenarios were modelled which is the standard to ensure scientific integrity.

SC advised that she thought the wind monitoring device on the ridge was in an odd position, following a recent visit by CCC members to inspect the site.

JM advised that company asked the modeller to calculate wind impacts for that particular day. Model predictions were accurate to conditions.

SC noted that local experience was over the past years there had been changes in wind direction and speed on the ridge.

There was discussion about accuracy of modelling, with community representatives on the CCC noting that given the location of the monitoring devices there was no way to tell if monitoring was accurate for that day at that location.

<p>JM noted that the modelling was consistent with the experience on the day.</p> <p>SC asked about biodiversity offsets for clearing endangered grass at Box Woodland, noting that the Biodiversity Conservation Trust was charged with determining appropriate offsets and suggested that the Trust asked to come and address a future meeting. SC sought to clarify the area that would be used for offset.</p> <p>JM reported that properties had been defined by the engaged consultant. She noted there were multiple ways that offsets can be made and ultimately it would come down to dealings with relevant landholders.</p> <p>JL asked for clarification around impacts on the water table and the easement for the pipeline.</p> <p>Regarding the pipeline easement, BH explained that it would allow access, construction, pumping, rehabilitation and monitoring. BH advised that farmers could still use the land to farm, but no structures could be built because the company would still need to access the pipe underneath for maintenance.</p> <p>JL noted that the pipeline was currently a line on a map and asked that if a farmer asked for the route to be adjusted if that could occur? BH responded that it could.</p> <p>On water impacts, JL asked for clarification on what impact the lowering of the water table 10 to 15 metres would have on dams and trees. The company undertook to follow up.</p> <p>Regarding Lawson Creek JL noted that when asked about impacts of lowering the water table by one metre on the creek the company responded that it was not sure. JL said he was therefore concerned that the company is not sure of available data. JM noted that neither she nor BH were qualified to answer his questions and would follow up with relevant staff. JL noted he had identified a site where monitoring could be undertaken, saying that there was no way to fully understand the impacts unless the area was drilled for monitoring.</p> <p>TC read and tabled two letters from community members.</p> <p>The first was regarding community sponsorship and concerns about the motivation for this sponsorship. The letter noted that it appeared as if it was a quid pro quo to garner support for the mine and questioned whether this was appropriate. The letter writer wished to stay anonymous.</p> <p>JM noted that the person who had written the letter had made some insinuations and that the company had a policy around community sponsorships.</p> <p>BH noted that the company was working towards being part of the community for the next 16 or more years. He noted that if the company wanted to be part of the community it needed to interact with the community. He said that activities sponsored by the company were good things for the community and that if the company did not provide sponsorship it makes it difficult for community groups to do what they do.</p> <p>DW said the company has sought advice from this forum in the past about what/whom Bowdens should sponsor and he recalled no suggestions were offered by CCC members.</p> <p>TC noted that the CCC could understand why a community member would question this but acknowledged that he could also see BH's point of view.</p> <p>SC suggested it was about winning hearts and minds.</p> <p>JM noted that very few people would feel obliged to support the mine because of community sponsorship.</p> <p>PF noted that the issue of sponsorship does divide community groups.</p> <p>TC noted that Lue Fire brigade voted to not to accept sponsorship from the company.</p> <p>MB made an observation that a local coal mine said it sponsored community to \$1.4 million but had not paid any tax.</p>	
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<p>JM noted that this was a matter for that company not Bowden's.</p> <p>TC also read a letter from Lue Action Group objecting to and raising concerns about the mine – including about water, concern about lead mining, transportation, rehabilitation planning. TC tabled the letter.</p> <p>DW gave company representatives an opportunity to respond to the points raised in the letter. JM chose not to.</p> <p>PF asked if it was possible to put information about the mine into the local council chamber in Rylstone – looking at water table impact, air quality, and noise.</p> <p>BH said he would investigate.</p> <p>DW said there was good information on the website and if that did not suffice then CCC members can ask the company for information in between meetings.</p> <p>JM provided PF, as a new CCC member, with information about the Bowdens project.</p> <p>TC noted that despite the picture of his property on the front of the newsletter, it provided good information.</p> <p>DW asked BH to drop some to PF at his workplace and he undertook to do so.</p> <p>MB congratulated the Bowdens environmental officer, noting his wife had contacted them about a koala and they were on-site in 20 minutes and noted he would be interested to see how the EIS deals with koalas.</p> <p>DW asked if Bowdens could provide information about the web model and when it would go live.</p> <p>JM reported that the company's vision is to have computers set up and access for people but that this was technologically challenging.</p> <p>SD said that the information should be accessible and simple and suggested one way might be a physical 3D model.</p>	
<p>Agenda Items for Meeting 8 (DW) Committee agreed to hold the next meeting on 27th February.</p>	<p>DW to invite Department to this meeting</p>
<p>Final Comments (DW) Members noted it would be beneficial for TM to attend.</p>	<p>JM to advise DW if TM is unable to attend on the above date.</p>
<p>Close Meeting The Chair thanked CCC members for their attendance. The meeting was closed at 7 pm.</p>	

Appendix C | Questions on Notice Register

Meeting	Question	CCC Member	Responsibility	Status	Response																			
Meeting 6	What is the exact source of water for the proposed pipeline?	Sonia Christie	Bowdens Silver Pty Limited	Finalised	The water proposed to be supplied to Bowdens Silver via the proposed pipeline is comprised principally of water dewatered from mine underground workings, a small amount of storm water and incident rainfall is captured in water storage areas. Water dewatered from the underground workings is primarily from the Permian aquifers or coal seam with proportionally lower contributions from overlying aquifers which flow into the underground workings through fractures above the coal seam.																			
Meeting 6	What evidence would be required for Bowdens to indicate whether an impact on local residents would be considered or not?	Mick Boller	Bowdens Silver Pty Limited	Finalised	Bowdens Silver has committed to addressing all relevant environmental issues that could affect the rural residents around the Mine Site and Lue village residents. Each issue will be covered in sufficient detail in the EIS to enable local residents and representatives from Government agencies to understand the likely level of impact.																			
Meeting 6	What are Bowdens' air quality modelling criteria for the mine, and what's the average period (weekly/monthly/annual)?	Mick Boller	Bowdens Silver Pty Limited	Finalised	<p>The adopted assessment criteria against which the modelling results have been assessed are presented in the following table. These assessment criteria are adopted from the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in New South Wales published by the NSW EPA in 2016. These criteria are also consistent with the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure published by the National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) in 1998 and updated in 2015. Further background on the sources and application of these criteria will be provided within the Air Quality Assessment report.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1182 970 2056 1232"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Assessment Criteria for Particulate Matter (PM)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>PM Metric</th> <th>Averaging Period</th> <th>Concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Suspended Particulates</td> <td>Annual</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">PM₁₀</td> <td>24 hours</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">PM_{2.5}</td> <td>24 hours</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annual</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) micrograms per cubic metre</p>	Assessment Criteria for Particulate Matter (PM)			PM Metric	Averaging Period	Concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)*	Total Suspended Particulates	Annual	90	PM ₁₀	24 hours	50	Annual	25	PM _{2.5}	24 hours	25	Annual	8
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Meeting 6	As there is no safe threshold for Pb and PM2.5, and similarly no safe threshold has ever been established for the other toxic metals – how will Bowdens know they will not exceed the Zero dust deposition as claimed?	Mick Boller	Bowdens Silver Pty Limited	Finalised	It should be clarified that Bowdens Silver has not made a claim of zero dust deposition. Most day to day and essential activities, such as driving a motor vehicle on unsealed roads, using combustion heaters or electricity, ploughing fields for crops, etc. result in the generation of particulate matter (and metals, such as lead, being attached to or forming the mineralogy of the particulates). If no threshold criteria are applied, in order for there to be no health impacts, all activities would be required to generate zero particulate matter. Clearly, this is not feasible for our day to day essential activities. Similarly, it would not be feasible to operate any mine or extractive activity, which are also essential for the provision of our society's infrastructure and services, with zero emissions.																																													

Meeting	Question	CCC Member	Responsibility	Status	Response
					<p>In light of the above, a realistic approach must be applied which includes setting threshold criteria for both Pb and PM2.5. The threshold criteria, as stated in response to Item 19, have been determined by the NSW EPA and the NEPC. The NSW EPA provides the following summary of how these standards are derived in their 2015 <i>Fact Sheet – National Environment Protection Measures (NEPMs)</i>.</p> <p><i>“How are the standards derived?”</i></p> <p><i>The standards are developed based on scientific understanding of the substances and interactions with the environment. Government agencies nationally, along with industry and academic experts, advise on the development of the standards, providing technical advice and achieving consensus on the appropriate levels. Due to the thorough nature of the process, the resulting standards are generally very conservative.”</i></p> <p>In addition to simple comparison against these criteria, a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) is being prepared for the Project. The HHRA will consider both the short and long-term health effects using a range of conservative assumptions including the exposure levels, duration of exposure, the individuals within the population most at risk etc. to quantitatively assess the potential health outcomes as a result of the predicted emissions from the Project. It is the consideration of these health outcomes which will provide a sensible assessment of the potential impacts from the Project. The preliminary results from the HHRA indicate that the risks to the community from metals (including lead) would be negligible. Further details will be provided as part of the completed HHRA.</p>
Meeting 6	Is Bowdens willing to participate in a public medical debate with professional medical consultants in the fields of clinical pharmacology, general medicine/kidney diseases, neurology, and paediatrics?	Mick Boller	Bowdens Silver Pty Limited	Finalised	<p>Bowdens Silver has commissioned a health risk assessment and lead assessment for the Project that are informed by a range of technical studies relating to air quality, surface water and groundwater. Furthermore, Bowdens Silver has also commissioned a peer review of both assessments to ensure that the data relied upon and conclusions reached are valid and appropriate.</p> <p>As a component of the EIS, the health risk assessment and lead assessment for the Project will be studied in detail by the medical professionals within NSW Health. Should these professionals have any questions regarding the assessments provided, there will be an opportunity through the Response to Submissions process administered by DPIE, to discuss relevant medical issues.</p>

Meeting 6	Regarding the tailings dam – will Bowdens be following the international standards set by the International council on mineral and metals?	Mick Boller	Bowdens Silver Pty Limited	Finalised	<p>The Bowdens Silver tailings storage facility (TSF) is presently in the design stage and once approved would be a prescribed dam under the NSW Dam Safety Act 1978. As a prescribed dam, oversight of the final TSF design, operation and management would be conducted by the NSW Dam Safety Committee (DSC), a statutory body whose function is to ensure the safety of prescribed dams within NSW.</p> <p>Therefore, the DSC’s “Tailings Dam Guidelines” apply to the Bowdens Silver TSF. These guidelines note that owners of prescribed tailings dams must comply with the provisions of the relevant design chapters of the Australian National Council on Large Dams’ (ANCOLD) documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Guidelines on Dam Safety Management”; and • “Guidelines on Tailings Dams”. <p>ANCOLD is a member of the International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) and prepares and issues guidelines which represent best engineering practice. These guidelines have been developed to share best Australian practice for tailings dams and are widely used across Australia and elsewhere. Bowdens Silver recognises that, on 27 March 2019, the International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), announced they would co-convene a global review to establish an international standard on tailings storage facilities by the end of 2019.</p> <p>However, the review (and associated standard) will not cover detailed technical design criteria for tailings dams which are already covered by organisations such as ICOLD and by extension, ANCOLD.</p> <p>Therefore, with regard to the design of the TSF, Bowdens Silver and its design team will continue to be guided by the DSC and ANCOLD whilst also awaiting the positions taken by the DSC and ANCOLD with respect to the outcomes of the ICMM, UNEP and PRI review and the adoption of any standards that may result.</p>
Meeting 6	Bowdens states in its brochure that impact assessment outcomes that seepage from the TSF and lined waste rock emplacement would be collected and recycled and reused in processing. How is seepage collected? A low permeability compacted clay liner would limit seepage from TSF, so	Mick Boller	Bowdens Silver Pty Limited	Finalised	<p>Due to the potentially acid forming nature of the stored tailings and waste rock, the Bowdens Silver tailings storage facility (TSF) and waste rock emplacement (WRE) would be underlain by low permeability liners.</p> <p>The purpose of the liners is to intercept any water that has been in contact with the stored materials (known as decant in relation to the TSF and leachate in relation to the WRE) which may migrate vertically (downwards) through the stored material, to prevent it from entering the local groundwater system (seepage). The key driver of seepage is the elevation difference between the stored water and the surrounding ground. As a result, if there is no water stored then seepage would not require consideration.</p>

	<p>what does Bowden exactly mean with the limit? On the map they only identify non-acid forming rock, not waste rock that is potentially acid forming.</p>				<p>As noted in ANCOLD's "Guidelines on Tailings Dams", seepage from TSFs may potentially occur through the embankment, foundation and/or floor of the impoundment with the amount of seepage loss greatly influenced by the permeability of the tailings themselves, which in many cases is low. As the Bowdens Silver TSF would store both tailings and water adjacent to the embankment (decant pond), the TSF design therefore considers the possibility of seepage through the embankment and foundations. Consequently, the TSF design includes a seepage collection system under the TSF embankment that would discharge into a drain and collection pond on the downstream toe of the TSF embankment. All collected seepage would then be pumped back to the decant pond. In addition, seepage potential from the proposed decant pond would be further limited by the installation of a bituminous geomembrane liner on the upstream face of the TSF embankment, compacted clay liner beneath the decant pond and a grout curtain installed adjacent to the upstream toe of the TSF embankment up to a depth of 40m below ground level, where required.</p> <p>With regard to the WRE, the preliminary design incorporates a high density polyethylene (HDPE) liner, anchored to the upper, lower and intercell embankments underlying each of the seven cells. Due to the underlying topography of the WRE, all leachate generated by rain falling onto the potentially acid forming waste rock placed in the active WRE cell would be intercepted by the HDPE liner and directed to the lowest point in the active cell via gravity. An inlet to a closed pipe would be installed at these low points to convey all leachate to the lined leachate management dam. As the leachate collection system would transfer all leachate to the leachate management dam, this would limit the potential for seepage from the WRE. Bowdens Silver also proposes to progressively rehabilitate the completed WRE cells in order to reduce the potential for leachate generation from the WRE.</p> <p>In addition, and in order to reduce the potential for seepage from the leachate management dam, Bowdens Silver would line the leachate management dam with HDPE and recycle all collected leachate by pumping it to the processing circuit, thus reducing any elevation difference between the stored leachate and the surrounding ground.</p> <p>As both the TSF and WRE are currently in the design stage, subject to the receipt of development consent, Bowdens Silver would commission, further geotechnical investigations to inform seepage management and mitigation as part of the detailed design stage prior to construction of the TSF and the WRE.</p>
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Bowdens Silver Project Community Consultative Committee 2019 Annual Report