

## Bowdens Silver Pty Limited ("Bowdens")

### Exploration Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

Meeting Minutes Monday 14 November 2016

Independent Chairperson: Margaret MacDonald-Hill

Minute Taker: Sally Mayberry

Meeting Commenced: 5.03pm

Meeting Ended: 8.00pm

#### Attendees:

Margaret MacDonald-Hill (*Chairperson*)  
Mick Boller  
Nick Butler (*Dept. Industry*)  
Sonia Christie  
Tom Combes  
John Lydiard  
Brett Maker  
Anthony McClure (*Managing Director Silver Mines Limited, Bowdens Silver P/L*)  
Sally Mayberry (*Bowdens Silver P/L*)  
Jane Munro (*Bowdens Silver P/L*)  
Keith Perrett (*Chairman Silver Mines Limited*)  
Julie Robertson (*MWRC*)  
Tony Sheridan

Agenda Topic	Discussion
Welcome and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair declared the meeting open and welcomed Members to the meeting.</li> <li>Members introduced themselves.</li> </ul>
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Planning and Environment Representative.</li> <li>John O'Neil (MWRC).</li> </ul>
Declaration of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>M MacDonald-Hill declared engagement as a paid position as the Independent Chair. Also chairs a number of CCCs and is a Member of the Mine Subsidence Board.</li> <li>CCC Members are unpaid members of the Bowdens Silver Exploration CCC.</li> </ul>
Role of the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This CCC is a group of representatives from the Bowdens Silver Exploration Licences catchment and local and State Government representatives.</li> <li>Meeting will be minuted by Bowdens Silver representative overseen by the Chair.</li> </ul>
Overview of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A McClure made a presentation on behalf of Bowdens Silver- see Attachment 1.</li> <li>Questions and comments arising from this presentation are set out below.</li> </ul>
Member presentation- concerns of Lue landowners and residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>T Combes made a presentation- see Attachment 2.</li> <li>Questions and comments arising from this presentation are set out below.</li> </ul>
2017 Meeting Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next CCC meeting Tuesday February 14 2017 5pm at Mid-Western Regional Council Chambers</li> </ul>

**Questions and comments arising from Bowdens Silver presentation:**

Question	Answer and Comments
How will long term historical data be incorporated into the planning of the mine	<b>Bowdens:</b> Available historical local data, public records and several years of data from project monitoring will be assessed by specialist consultants and may be input into scientific models.
Re Texas QLD – leaching tailings dam	<b>Bowdens:</b> There have been no major ruptures in tailings dams in Australian history.
How much, in volume, of lead is present?	<b>Bowdens</b> The project is a silver mine, with low levels of zinc and lead as by-products. It is the silver that makes the mining economic. <b>Member comment:</b> Community raises concern regarding the volume of lead that will be mined.
Will the lead be extracted/ processed on site?	<b>Bowdens:</b> Yes, silver/zinc and silver/lead concentrates will be produced on site for further processing elsewhere in Australia or overseas.
Is night time drilling going to happen?	<b>Bowdens:</b> It is being considered. Seven-day operation of diamond drilling is also being considered.
Is the drilling 0 decibels?	<b>Bowdens:</b> Don't know the decibel numbers off hand. Drilling it is not audible at the Bowdens site office. <b>Member comment:</b> The drilling rig can be heard by the residents at Lue Station sometimes; so can the telephone at Havilah 8km away.
Has Bowdens been consulting the community regarding the change in operating hours?	<b>Bowdens:</b> No, however, we are investigating and will discuss further. Department of Resources and Energy will also be consulted.
Who is the 'Community' that is being referred to?	<b>Bowdens:</b> The community within and surrounding the 1600 km <sup>2</sup> of Exploration Licences stretching from north of Gulgong to Kandos. Currently no CCC representative from Gulgong but that may change.
Why was there no community meeting with Lue directly?	<b>Bowdens:</b> There has been an initial focus on one-to-one meetings with neighbours rather than group meetings. <b>Member Comment:</b> Some contempt has been expressed in the community regarding Bowdens not having a group meeting with Lue residents.
How far does 'Immediate Direct Neighbours' extend?	<b>Bowdens:</b> We have contacted almost all of the immediate neighbours, have not had 100% success but continue to work. Definition of 'Immediate direct neighbours' is- boundary fences touching
Will the groundwater results be available on the website?	<b>Bowdens:</b> Hoping to get these results onto the website in the future. A comprehensive sample location point map is live on the website.
Will the historical water sampling data be made available?	<b>Bowdens:</b> Historical data is substantial and the company is looking into how this can be represented on the website. <b>Further Discussion</b> regarding the silver-zinc-lead geochemical anomaly from Kandos to north of Lue.

Will Bowdens keep paying to maintain all parts of the licence areas?	<b>Bowdens:</b> Likely that we will relinquish parts of the licence areas over time.
The 2 million tonnes per annum operation – is that ore processed?	<b>Bowdens:</b> Yes, processed. Strip ratio varies but original previous plan was 1.7:1 life of mine. Bowdens' scenario will be lower than that initially, and then higher than that later on. <b>Member Comment-</b> So about 4 million tonnes per year material movement. <b>Bowdens:</b> Yes
Which schools are you working with?	<b>Bowdens:</b> At the moment, Lue Public School. We have been planning to contact the majority of primary and secondary schools in the district regarding opportunities for the children to visit the site and for our people to visit schools for education purposes along with other programs.
Will Bowdens be offering apprenticeships at Kandos and Gulgong?	<b>Bowdens:</b> The company will be reaching out to see what opportunities are available for us to become involved as part of our education program. <b>Member Comment:</b> Employment opportunity for special education children is limited and it would be good to see opportunities open up.
Will Bowdens be going to go back to the DPE regarding the SEARs and have them review the conditions?	<b>Bowdens:</b> Yes, this is in progress now.
Regarding the 'smaller impact' statement – are there any plans to extend in the future?	<b>Bowdens:</b> Current plan is for the smaller mine footprint. If any significant change in the mine size is proposed, a new application (including social impact assessment) and regulatory approval will be required. A minor change in mine footprint would require a modification application. No expansion is being planned by the company.
What will happen with the void at the end of life of the mine?	<b>Bowdens:</b> Currently looking at that aspect in the mine studies. Information will be detailed in the EIS.
What happens if/when the model of groundwater isn't right and there is an impact on surrounding landholders' water?	<b>Bowdens:</b> We will detail comprehensive mitigation measures in the EIS (legislative requirement). <b>Member discussion:</b> Further concern regarding potential for mistakes during drilling/contaminating groundwater quality/access and how risk will be mitigated.
With the baseline data for lead, will there be screening on the Lue community prior to mining?	<b>Bowdens:</b> We will consider this based on expert advice to be obtained.

<p>'Very low lead concentrations' compared to what?</p>	<p><b>Bowdens:</b> Very low concentrations compared to other operational mines that contain lead such as Mount Isa, Broken Hill, Endeavour and others. Bowdens will not be building a smelter. The primary source of issues in some historical mining towns has related to smelting.</p> <p><b>Further Discussion</b> regarding lead-silver-zinc mining and the associated volumes of ore; as well the community health impacts.</p>
<p>Will there be a 'Living with Lead Alliance' strategy akin to Imparja TV's advertisement?</p>	<p><b>Bowdens:</b> No. Refer to Bowdens presentation. Further discussion regarding whether it is a 'Silver' mine. Issues relating to lead will be thoroughly addressed within the EIS.</p>
<p>How is Bowdens going to minimise noise?</p>	<p><b>Bowdens:</b> Examples: sound suppression on equipment, construction of bunds to stop noise traveling and smart scheduling (e.g. minimising noise at night time).</p>
<p>Are Bowdens planning on operating into the night?</p>	<p><b>Bowdens:</b> Considering night operations. Processing operations can be internal so minimising noise. Night time mining will be considered once the noise components of the EIS are understood and completed. It will be further assessed as the mine develops.</p> <p><b>Further Discussion:</b> Regarding noise and noise data collection, operating hours and community input into how the mine operates. Discussion about using existing science to determine noise travel-is it consistent with real life scenario? Member suggestion to use expected equipment for a period of time to conduct noise monitoring before the mine starts operating/using that equipment.</p>
<p>How local is 'local'?</p>	<p><b>Bowdens:</b> As close to site as practicable for the services that are required. It is company policy to give priority to local employment, contractors and services.</p> <p><b>Member Discussion</b> regarding employing locals – what the policy is and how many locals were employed.</p>

**Questions arising from Tom Combes' presentation:**

Question	Answer
Can there be a 60-day period rather than a 30-day period after submission of the EIS?	<b>Bowdens:</b> That is up to Government and the company can discuss.
<b>Comment:</b> Can Bowdens determine how far away sensitive receptors are, and what the level of impact will be beyond the 2km original Kingsgate boundary of impact? Need to understand the long-term impacts of mining for those within the indirect boundary of Bowdens mine so that the landowners can make educated decisions about their long term living arrangements, instead of finding out at late notice.	
<b>Bowdens Comment:</b> Bowdens will not undertake any activities that may cause the poisoning of people. Laws and regulations ensure the highest of environmental standards are met in NSW. Significant reduction of size of the mine will minimise environmental and community impacts. Extremely important to the company that Lue is a viable township. <b>Further discussion</b> regarding the future of Bowdens ownership and how the community will continue to thrive if/when the mine changes ownership. Concern about continuity of the community as a whole. Further concern about the impacts on health, despite Bowdens guarantee, regarding how the community can be assured of health.	

A faint, stylized topographic map of a landscape with hills and valleys, rendered in light gray lines, serves as a background for the top portion of the slide.

# ***BOWDENS*** **SILVER**

***Community Consultative Committee***

***14<sup>th</sup> November 2016***



# CONTENTS

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- **Ownership**
- **Who are we?**
- **Bowdens Silver Project**
- **Development**
- **Education**
- **Environmental Impact Statement**
- **Compliance**



# OWNERSHIP

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Silver Mines Limited purchase of 100%

***BOWDENS***  
**SILVER**

from Kingsgate Consolidated Limited

Completion and Handover – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

***BOWDENS***  
**SILVER**



A decorative background at the top of the slide featuring a light gray topographic map with contour lines and a shaded area representing a mountain peak.

## **WHO ARE WE?**

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- **Strong track record in exploration success, mine development and mining**
- **Strong background in SILVER and other metals**
- **Silver Mines Limited re-organisation completed end June 2016**



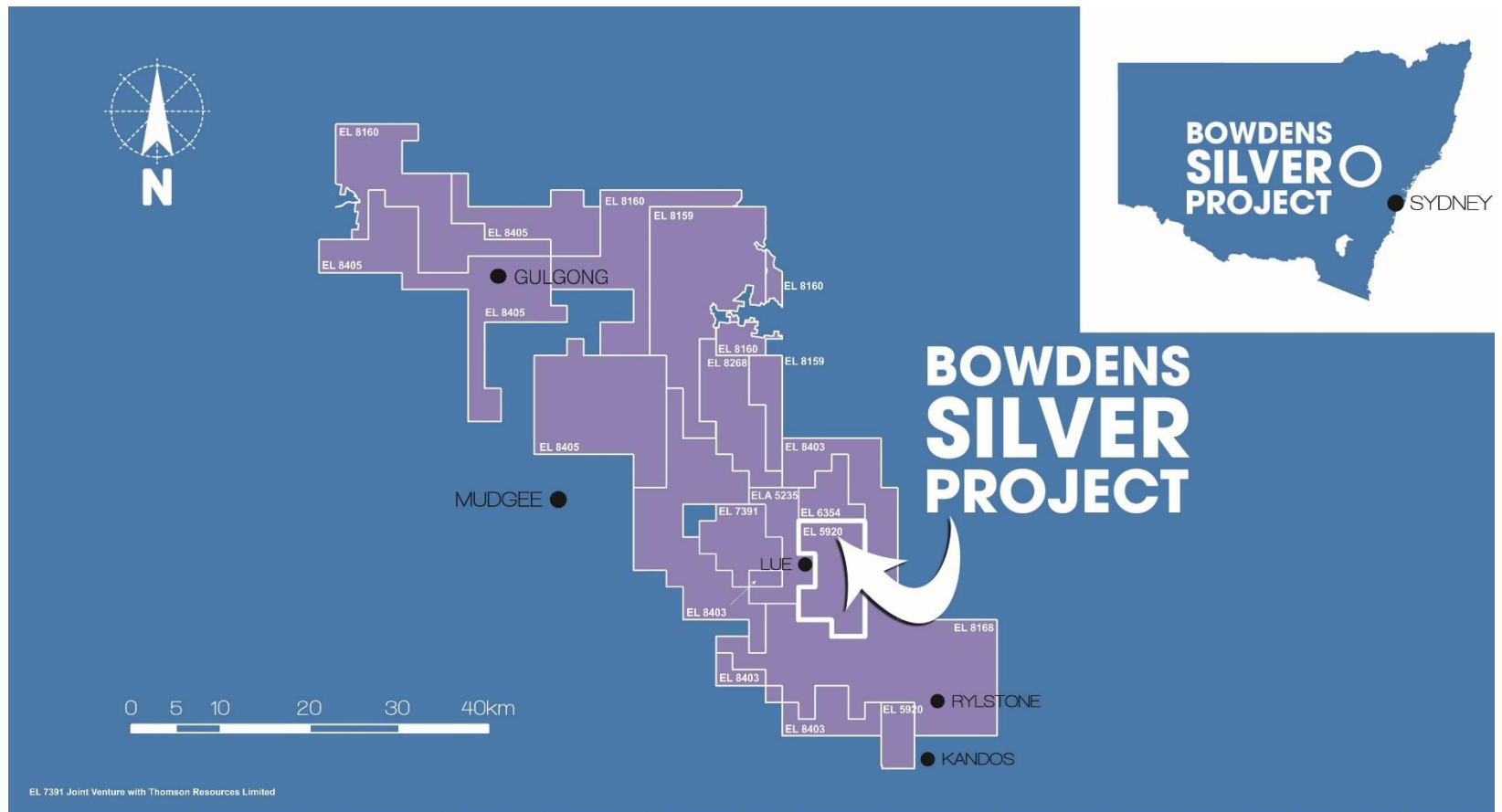
# WHO ARE WE?

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## THE TEAM

- Director/Project Manager
- Public and Government Liaison and Compliance Officer
- Community Liaison Officer
- Community Program Co-ordinator
- Geologists X 5 (3 Senior)
- Environmental Team X 3
- Field Team X 6 (including Senior Supervisor and Farm Manager)
- Site Office Manager
- Human Resources Manager
- Drilling crew X 8
- Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement crew X 10

# BOWDENS SILVER PROJECT



# BOWDENS SILVER PROJECT

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## SUMMARY

- The largest undeveloped silver deposit in Australia and one of the largest globally
- Bowdens Silver holds 1,654 km<sup>2</sup> (408,000 acres) in exploration tenements
- Exploration tenements stretch from north of Gulgong to Kandos
- Resource of 134 million ounces of silver (182 million ounces of silver equivalent when zinc and lead included)
- Resource expansion highly likely
- Classified as “State Significant Development” in New South Wales

# **BOWDENS SILVER PROJECT**

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## **HISTORY**

- Early work by CRA (now Rio Tinto) and others
- Kingsgate Consolidated purchased from Silver Standard
- 63,000 metres of drilling completed
- Approximately A\$60 million spent on the project to date
- Last Feasibility Study for works managed by Ausenco
- Halted in mid 2013 with silver price downturn
- Previous concept was a large to 4.0-4.5 million tonnes per annum development

A faint, stylized topographic map with contour lines is visible in the background of the slide.

# **BOWDENS SILVER PROJECT**

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## **CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

- **Drilling re-commenced**
- **Airborne geophysical program commenced covering all licence areas**
- **Initial mine optimisation completed**
- **Outstanding elements of feasibility work underway**
- **Elements of Environmental Impact Statement commenced**
- **Environmental monitoring continues**

# **BOWDENS SILVER PROJECT**

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## **EXPLORATION DRILLING**

- **Approximately 187 holes planned and approved (~129 reverse circulation drilling, ~58 diamond core drilling)**
- **Currently 2 diamond core rigs on site- all have sound suppression**
- **Depth of holes 100m to 450m**
- **Current hours of operation- Mon-Fri 7am-6pm, Sat 8am-1pm**
- **Monitoring noise levels & talking to neighbours- possible extension of operating hours**

# BOWDENS SILVER PROJECT

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## OTHER PLANNED EXPLORATION

- Induced Polarisation (IP) survey over prospective areas surrounding Bowdens Silver project
- Regional mapping and surface sampling programs in conjunction with IP survey, with soil sampling along IP survey lines
- Forward planning for several prospective drilling targets to be drilled in 2017



# BOWDENS SILVER PROJECT

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## FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT COMPONENTS

- AMC Consultants - geology, resource and mine planning
- ATC Williams - tailings and water resources
- Jacobs - ground water
- RW Corkery & Co - Environmental Impact Statement



# BOWDENS SILVER PROJECT

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## COMMUNITIES

- CCC to cover community information flows on environmental, social and economic impact aspects over all exploration tenements
- Open Days for all communities throughout tenement portfolio
- Neighbours to be provided close access and one on one meetings as preferred
- New Bowdens Silver website up and running
- Q & A portal commenced
- Newsletter program commenced
- Educational, cultural and sporting sponsorship programs commenced



# FARM

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## FARM

- Freehold position 1500 hectares (3700 acres) (100% and optioned)
- Over 600 hectares (1500 acres) pasture improved
- Running both Merino sheep and Black Angus and Black Angus cross cattle
- Pest eradication program commenced (foxes & pigs)
- Weed control program commenced
- Bushfire strategy under development



# DEVELOPMENT

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## OPTIONS & TIMING

- Smaller, lower impact development circa 2.0 million tonnes per annum
- Mine development in north-east sector of deposit
- Revision of all key components including mine, processing, tailings, water, power, etc
- Mine life circa 20 years (could be much longer)
- Production of concentrates
- Subject to approvals timing, potential development decision first half 2018
- Development capital investment \$150 million - \$200 million

A background image of a topographic map with contour lines, rendered in a light gray color. The word "DEVELOPMENT" is overlaid on the left side in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

# DEVELOPMENT

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## EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING & SERVICES

- Upon development, over 150 jobs to be created. Categories include:
  - Mining - material movement and management
  - Technical Services - environmental, geological, engineering
  - Processing and Plant Operations - grinding, milling, flotation, tailings
  - General and Administration - accounting, health & safety, farm, support
- Strong training and support policy
- Substantial benefits locally for contractors and services - rule of thumb - two jobs created for every employee

# EDUCATION

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## TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS (Universities, Colleges, TAFE)

Earth sciences

Geology

Mine Engineering

Processing

Environmental Sciences

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Agriculture

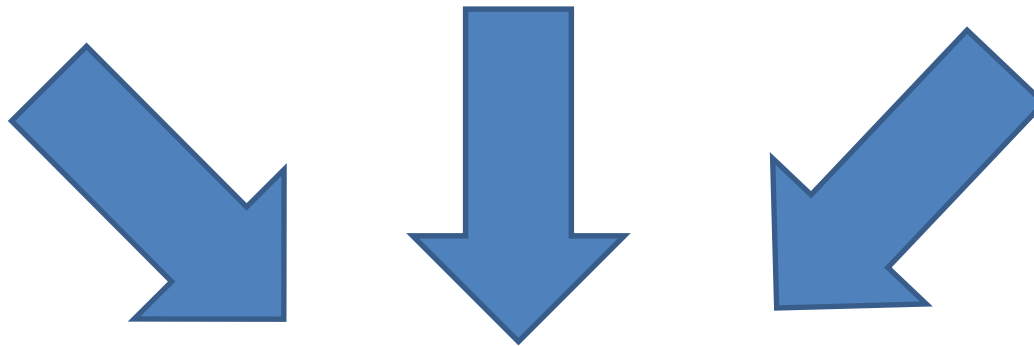
Applied Science

Earth & Environmental Science

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Agriculture

Nature & Geography



**BOWDENS**  
**SILVER**

EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

**BOWDENS**  
**SILVER**

## SECRETARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

- **Dept. of Planning consults with stakeholders:**
  - Government departments- State and Local
  - Statutory Authorities- EPA, Office of Water etc.
  - Community groups
- **Set out detailed requirements for assessment of:**
  - Existing environment
  - Background data
  - Proposed project
  - Likely impacts of the development (including cumulative impacts)

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT	
Background and Description of the Proposal Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR) The Approvals Process	Environmental Management and Documentation Consultation and Issue Identification
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL	
Geological Setting and Resources Mine Design and Planning Considerations Site Establishment and Construction Activities Mining Operations Waste Rock Management Processing Operations Tailings Management	Road Traffic and Transportation Site Infrastructure and Services Hours of Operation and Life of the Proposal Waste Management Safety/Security Management Rehabilitation, Land Uses and Biodiversity Offset
ENVIRONMENTAL AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT	
Noise Blasting and Vibration Air Quality Lead Visibility Traffic and Transport Surface Water Groundwater	Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology Soils and Land Capability Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Non-Indigenous Heritage Hazards Local Infrastructure and Services including Power Socio-Economic Agricultural Lands and Enterprises



# COMPLIANCE

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**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must comply with all relevant:**

- **Laws**
- **Environmental Planning Instruments**
- **Guidelines**
- **Policies**
- **Plans**
- **Industry Codes of Practice**

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must address all SEARs:**

- **Provide data**
- **Expert and peer reviewer reports**
- **Define likely environmental impacts**
- **Detail plans to mitigate and/or offset likely environmental impacts**

# ITEMS WE WILL ADDRESS

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## SCALE OF THE PROJECT & HOURS OF OPERATION

- Propose to substantially reduce throughput
- Circa 2.0 million tonnes per annum
- Reduced environmental impacts - water requirements, footprint of the mine site, noise, waste rock emplacement, tailings storage requirements and processing facilities
- Hours of operation to be assessed
- Scheduling night-time activities to minimise noise and light impacts
- Noise monitoring and response plans

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# ITEMS WE WILL ADDRESS

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## SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER

Hydrologists will assess:

- potential capture of runoff from mine site and Bowdens Silver freehold areas
- accessing water from mining activities
- recycling of tailings water
- aquifers underlying the mine site and the mine's potential impacts on them
- minimise any use of available water licences

*Current SEARs require detailed water management strategy, assessment of the likely impacts on the quantity and quality of the region's surface and groundwater resources, in accordance with Environmental Protection Authority and the NSW Office of Water requirements.*

# ITEMS WE WILL ADDRESS

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## LEAD

- Bowdens currently reviewing baseline data and assessing the need for expanded baseline data prior to commencement of mine development
- Very low lead concentration in Bowdens Silver deposit - 0.29% lead in resource
- Design and mitigation measures to manage all risk from lead
- In addition to government requirements, our policies and procedures will include a comprehensive and publicly accessible monitoring and reporting framework

# ITEMS WE WILL ADDRESS

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## ACID MINE DRAINAGE AND TAILINGS MANAGEMENT

- Potentially acid forming (PAF) mining waste material generated by the mining process will be minimal
- Storage of encapsulated PAF waste to ensure it does not impact surface water or groundwater
- Tailings waste material generated by processing plant expected to be mildly acid forming
- Tailings storage facility to maintain all the tailings generated in accordance with industry standard tailings management

*Current SEARs require a detailed tailings management strategy to be set out, in accordance with requirements stipulated by the Environmental Protection Authority.*

# ITEMS WE WILL ADDRESS

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## NOISE AND VIBRATION

- Location and scheduling of operations in order to minimise noise impacts
- Current plans for sound suppression on mining equipment

*Current SEARs require a detailed assessment of operational noise impacts, in accordance with requirements stipulated by the Environmental Protection Authority.*

## AIR QUALITY – BLASTING AND DUST

*Current SEARs require a detailed air quality assessment and management strategy, in accordance with Approved Methods and Guidance for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW and additional requirements stipulated by the Environmental Protection Authority.*

# ITEMS WE WILL ADDRESS

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## TRAFFIC

- A new site access road may be developed to the west of Lue
- Preferred intersection with the Lue Road is near the waste transfer station
- The redesigned intersection could also incorporate better access to the waste transfer station
- Options for product transport (road and rail) will be assessed

*Current SEARs require a detailed assessment of the likely transport impacts on the capacity, condition, safety and efficiency of the local and State road network, in accordance with requirements stipulated by Roads & Maritime Services.*

# ITEMS WE WILL ADDRESS

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## REHABILITATION

- Meet or exceed industry standards for encapsulation of waste rock and tailings
- Multi-disciplinary approach to be taken to determination of post-mining land use.

*Current SEARs require a detailed rehabilitation strategy, in accordance with the key principles set out in the Strategic Framework for Mine Closure.*



# ITEMS WE WILL ADDRESS

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## SOCIAL IMPACT

*Current SEARs require:*

- *detailed assessment of the likely social and economic impacts, including significance of the resource, economic benefits for the region and the State, and demand for local infrastructure and services*
- *signed report from a suitably qualified expert containing an estimate of the jobs that would be created at each stage of the development*
- *detailed Human Health Risk Assessment, addressing how environmental impacts in relation to air quality, noise and drinking water may impact on the health of the community and the monitoring and management measures*

# ITEMS WE WILL ADDRESS

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## SOCIAL IMPACT

- Bowdens Silver intends to create a long term, sustainable mining operation.
- Priority to support local communities and the wider district
- Operation built and operated by local people and local contractors with services from local businesses
- Currently mentoring and supporting local contractors to provide services to our exploration program
- Communication with landholders who may be affected by our operations
- Any property acquisition offers at a considered premium to market
- Currently sponsoring a number of community groups

# Contact

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**W: [www.bowdenssilver.com.au](http://www.bowdenssilver.com.au)**

**E: [information@bowdenssilver.com.au](mailto:information@bowdenssilver.com.au)**

**T: (02) 6373 6420, after hours phone (02) 8960 6111**

**A: 68 Maloneys Road, Lue NSW 2850**

**P: P.O. Box 1115, Mudgee NSW 2850**



**Attachment 2: Copy of T. Combes' presentation**

Mrs Chairman, Government representatives, members of the Lue Community, Bowdens Silver and others,

Good evening.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform this meeting of the concerns of Lue Landowners and Residents that I have spoken to in relation to the proposed Bowden's mine.

First, Let me make it very clear that the majority of these people are not opposed to mining. Quite the contrary, many of these people are employed at mines or work in mining support or mining related industries. The people of Lue are not ignorant to the advantages of mining. They understand the jobs that mining creates, the royalties to governments, the advantages to the economy. Additionally, the people from Lue, are like most from small rural communities, they are not wingers and moaners. They have no intentions to scream and yell, tie themselves to Bulldozers and camp in trees. These are predominantly, conservative right wing voters. They leave that stuff for the far left.

However they are concerned and the concerns conveyed to me, are regarding this mine. The proposed Bowden's mine. The reasons for their concerns are very plain and very simple.

Other mines in this area are pushing their impact boundaries out to 8km. They do this because history has demonstrated that people cannot live happily inside that 8km zone, certainly not in the manner that people would normally expect. We find the proposed Bowden's mine is a mere 2km from the centre of the village of Lue. This mine proposes to extract a massive two million tonnes of ore per year, equivalent to 365 15 tonnes tipper loads per day, and I guess some of its operations will run 24 hours a day. Anyone projecting or suggesting that this will not have a serious detrimental effect on the people of Lue just 2km away is ludicrous and therefore Lue people have real and valid reason for concern.

Further, this mine is a lead mine. Sure we can call it a Silver mine if we like but the reality is that ~~the~~ <sup>A</sup> ~~large amount~~ <sup>large amount</sup> of the ore that it will produce is lead. Lead is poisonous to humans. Lead has been stripped from almost every product available to man. For good reason. Even the most minute quantities create catastrophic health problems in humans. A lead mine 2km from a village is too close. The risk to those people living in that village is too great. Yes, we have a couple of lead mines in Australia that are close to towns but these towns developed around the mine by the mine. There is a high chance these towns would never have been built this close if they knew then what they know now about lead. We have all seen the living with lead adds on the TV. They are not a furphy...a lie. It is not good, and not something you should subject a town to.

A 2 million tonne a year, hard rock, lead and silver mine within 2km from a town is not possible without severe impact on residents. Even with worlds best practice there is just no evidence that it can be done. There is significant evidence that it cannot be done.

Even Bowdens Silver would have grave plans for the village of Lue, and I would guess that any person with any hint of knowledge about mining would also be thinking that Lue would have to go if this mine was to go ahead. I raise the example of Wilpinjong Coal Mine near Wollar. A mine located a similar distance from Wollar as the Bowdens project is to Lue. Recently, an application was made for expansion of the mine. An extraordinary judgement was made regarding the expansion plans. It was

determined that the mine had already destroyed the town of Wollar, there were so few people left living there that there was little more to destroy. The expansion plan was given its approval.

The reality is that the proponents and those making the decisions about the Willinjong mine knew right from the start that Wollar was doomed. Like Wollar, those proposing and those making the decisions about the Bowdens mine know that Lue is doomed if the mine goes ahead. It is a fact that Lue is closer to Bowdens than Wollar is to Wilpinjong.

So let us forget the lies, forget dogging the facts, forget glossy newsletters with nice untouched landscapes and native animals and get down to the reality of the project. Two options. Bowdens Mine or Lue Village.

I argue for the people of Lue that we keep Lue village. There are almost 100 homes within 3km of this proposed mine.

Over 100 years ago the Government proclaimed the village of Lue as a place where people can live. They created allotments and streets where people could build their homes, built a school to educate their children, a recreation ground, a community hall, access to water, refuse disposal, emergency services facilities. Subsequently, people have gathered there and built their lives, many have lived there for generations, many have family members buried in the cemetery there. Building their lives and their homes and raising their families there in Lue. That cannot be replaced. That cannot be moved.

Already we have seen families removed from their homes due this proposed mine. Told if they didn't take the offer on the table they would be forcefully removed. What sort of a government supports that. What sort of business would invoke it. These were people's homes, their lives. Their homes were on small lots surrounding a village, this is a populated area. The most underpopulated Country on earth with the richest mineral base is chasing its residents from their homes, in its populated areas. This is wrong in so many ways. As I have mentioned before, we understand the need for mining but surely there has to be rights for those in towns and villages. Surely, some areas must be off limits.

I offered the analogy to Tony McLure a couple of months back and asked him how the people of Double Bay, where he lives, would react if they were told a Silver and lead mine of this size was being built just 2kms away at Bondi Junction. He laughed. I didn't. I bet it would not go well. So tell me why the people of Lue are so different to those in Double Bay, or any other village for that matter. Money? is that it? have governments become so inept at promoting growth, new business and diversity that they have to wipe out villages like Wollar and Lue. And don't tell me that this is a once off, don't tell me and the people of Lue that this is the only place this can be done.

A fair Government, a logical government, a innovative government would stand to protect Lue. Protect existing business, lives, homes and families. Lue should not have to stand and fight to save their town, they should not have to stand and fight to live peacefully and safely in a village that was proclaimed by the government 100 years ago. They should not have the fear of losing their place to live. Regardless of the circumstance, It is not right, it is not fair. No village or town should have to do that. Not now, not ever.

Finally, I would like to appeal to the all levels of Government from where I stand here tonight that legislation be created. Legislation that creates a barrier, an area around villages, towns and cities. This legislation should ensure that large, toxic mines are not permitted within this zone. This will ensure that people living in declared villages, towns and cities made so by government will be able to live without concern for the future their lifestyle, their home or their health.

thank you for your time. Tom Combes.

 14.11.2016.