

Minutes

Meeting:	Bowdens Silver Project Community Consultative Committee - Meeting 2
Date:	Wednesday, 14 February 2018
Independent Chair:	Darryl Watkins
Location:	Bowdens Silver, 68 Maloneys Road, Lue NSW 2850
Time:	5.00 – 7.40 PM

Attendees	
Mr James Armitage (member)	Cr John O'Neill (Mid-Western Regional Council)
Mr Bradley Robert Bliss J.P. (Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation)	Mr Blake Hjorth (Bowdens Silver Pty Limited)
Mr Mick Boller (Lue Action Group)	Ms Jane Munro (Bowdens Silver Pty Limited)
Ms Sonia Christie (member)	Mr Scott Munro (Bowdens Silver Pty Limited)
Mr Tom Combes (member)	Mr Darryl Watkins (Independent Chair)
Ms Sally Dryburgh (member)	Mr Marc Snape (Minute Taker)
Mr John Lydiard (member)	
Apologies	
Mr Keith Perrett (Silver Mines Ltd)	Mr Anthony (Tony) McClure (Silver Mines Ltd)

Subject	Actions
<p>1. Site Tour</p> <p>The Committee was taken on a site tour of the Bowdens Silver site.</p> <p>The Chair advised that while members were permitted to take photos in their capacity as a CCC member during the site tour, any republication of those photos would need to be subject to written permission being obtained from Bowdens Silver.</p> <p>See Appendix A for tour schedule.</p>	<p>➤ No actions.</p>
<p>2. Welcome & Introduction</p> <p>The Chair welcomed and thanked members for their attendance and thanked Bowdens Silver staff for organising the site tour.</p> <p>Bradley Bliss delivered Welcome to Country.</p>	<p>➤ No actions.</p>
<p>3. Apologies</p> <p>The Chair noted apologies from Tony McClure and Keith Perrett.</p>	<p>➤ No actions.</p>



<p>4. Pecuniary & Other Interests</p> <p>The Chair advised that members of the Committee have a responsibility to keep their Declarations of Interests up to date. There is no requirement to wait to update the declaration in a meeting. Members are requested to update their interest register if and when there is a change.</p>	<p>➤ No actions.</p>
<p>5. Minutes and Actions of previous meeting (DW)</p> <p>The minutes of Meeting 1 were noted.</p>	<p>➤ No actions.</p>
<p>6. Site visit Q&A</p> <p>The Chair requested questions from Committee members regarding the site visit, and questions were asked and responded to in an orderly fashion.</p> <p>Q1. Bradley Bliss asked a question regarding the flotation method to extract the resource, noting that the resulting concentrate is a lead/silver mix, what would be the approximate lead content of the extracted material.</p> <p>A1. Scott Munro advised that while this would be an unqualified answer, the extracted concentrate would be a variable percentage of the original mass. The extraction process doesn't just extract the silver, and the make-up of the concentrate would deviate, depending on which source area being mined at any one time.</p> <p>Q2. Bradley Bliss asked how that concentrate would be transported from the site, and what percentage of lead is captured in the concentrate</p> <p>A2. Scott Munro advised that the concentrate will be transported from the site in encapsulated trucks. Recovery of lead through the extraction process to the concentrate is approximately 80-85%.</p> <p>The Chair advised that he has asked Bowdens Silver to provide an expert on lead and health, and that has been confirmed for Meeting 3.</p> <p>The Chair acknowledged a table of calculations that Tom Combes had developed, and that he has provided that to Bowdens Silver for comment.</p> <p>The Chair noted that while the above answers have been given, the questions will be recorded as Questions on Notice.</p> <p>Q3. Mick Boller sought clarification that approximately 15% of lead would not be recovered at the end of the process.</p> <p>A3. Scott Munro confirmed that there is a proportion that the extraction process can't recover. That will go to the tailings dam - some of that will be in sulphide form, some in silicate form.</p> <p>Q4. Tom Combes stated that during the site tour, it was advised that the mine was 2.5 - 3 kms from Lue to the centre of the pit. Measuring on the map, that pit is approximately 1km across, and it is therefore approximately 2km between the edge of pit to the centre of the village of Lue. The waste rock placement on the map is closer again. There's been no talk of compensation for the people of Lue, and the people of Lue are very concerned about the location of the mine.</p> <p>A4. Question taken as a comment.</p> <p>Q5. Tom Combes advised that his understanding is that water will not be taken from a high security water source somewhere in a remote location, (e.g. Windamere Dam) but that all water for use on this mine will be either collected from run off, or sourced from on-site?</p>	<p>➤ Bowdens to respond. Question on notice.</p>



A5. Jane Munro advised that that was not correct. There's been no determination made on that matter, and Bowdens Silver is looking at a variety of sources for water. This is still under active consideration as part of the feasibility process.

The project will collect run off, but the plans have moved on since the last meeting and Bowdens Silver is still developing its strategy. Bowdens Silver is looking at all possibilities.

Tom Combes noted that this is a very critical question for the people in Lue. There is a drought and the surface water is about to stop, and residents will become completely reliant on bore water in this valley. The area is on fractured rock, with small, localised pockets of water that is collected from the cracks. Residents are assuming the mine will go far deeper than any of the local bores in the area (approx. 20 – 100m), so the impact could be significant.

Sonia Christie commented that the whole system locally is based on reticulated water. It would be the end of her business if the local water source is interrupted.

Tom Combes noted that he would be 100% opposed to the project taking water from on-site, or even capturing surface water. It would be much more preferable for the water to be sourced from a regulated, high-security water source like Windamere Dam.

The Chair advised that on this issue, Bowdens Silver have been asked to provide a hydrologist to Meeting 3 to answer all of these questions.

Q6. Tom Combes advised that the local residents are concerned about the tailing storage facility and what the impact will be. The Committee can see where the dam will be located, and its proximity to Lawsons Creek. Lawsons Creek goes directly to Mudgee. Any failing or leaching at all, and there is less than 1km of safety zone until the main water source into Mudgee.

Tom noted that at Meeting 1, he asked what size rain event the tailings dam is being constructed to. There is major concern about the tailings dam, construction safety, standards, and what impact it will have for Lawsons Creek and Mudgee. What mitigations are being undertaken?

A6. The Chair advised that this question will be responded to at the Meeting 3 with the water expert.

Q7. Tom Combes asked why there is no wind monitoring at higher levels, such as on Bingman Hill, visited during the site tour. Tom advised that he believes most of the existing wind monitoring sites are in gullies or at lower altitude, measuring localised wind currents and blowing in all different directions. Tom believes there is a need for wind monitoring at higher locations, such as Bingman Hill to identify prevailing winds in the area.

Tom advised there was a recent incident where he saw dust rising from a drill rig, and while there was no wind on the ground, the dust rose to certain height then was picked up by a higher wind current.

A7. Scott Munro advised that all drill rigs are equipped with dust suppression, but that Bowdens Silver would investigate.

Q8. Sally Dryburgh advised that standing at the vantage point was very useful to see topography, and asked if there is any way of having a 3D model made available to the community, so that the committee can visualise it and better explain to the community.

➤ Bowdens to respond.
Question on notice.

➤ Question on notice.
Tom Combes to provide incident details.
Bowdens Silver to investigate.



A8. Scott Munro commented that this was an excellent point. Bowdens Silver have met and discussed the merits of a 3D format, with several platforms being investigated. This is something Bowdens Silver have discussed, and intend to do, pending the completion of the feasibility study, and will be further demonstrated in the EIS.

The Chair clarified that the feasibility study will confirm total layout of the entire area, and then once all matters are confirmed, Bowdens Silver will confirm a 3D model.

Bowdens Silver will continue to investigate and advise of a decision in due course. Sally noted that a physical 3D model of the area would be more accessible to the community.

Q9. Sally Dryburgh asked what the shortest timeframe is until digging starts, if all approval steps go to plan.

A9. Jane Munro advised that currently Bowdens Silver is unable to say. It won't be less than a year, probably closer to two years, but depends on assessment process.

The Chair advised that there will be an EIS process that the public gets a chance to provide input to, then there may be clarifications, further approval process etc. It's quite an extensive process.

Q10. Sally Dryburgh asked if someone in Lue grows vegetables, and is worried about lead dust on the produce, how that person can be sure that they can feed the vegetables to their children.

A10. Jane Munro advised that there's already background lead levels in Lue, which tells us the naturally occurring levels of dust in the area. The proponent's lead expert will then model the mine using all the parameters of what is being dug up, what the wind is like etc. These parameters are all fed into a model that predicts if there would be any increase from those background levels, and then suppression and mitigation is designed to prevent any increase.

Tom Combes asked what the predicted change is currently.

Jane advised that Bowdens Silver does not know. The experts work completely independently from the company, but also partly because the mine's EIS hasn't been finalised.

Sonia Christie noted a lot of people in Lue have had independent testing done as well. Tom noted that the Lue Action Group has done research through its own experts.

Q11. Mick Boller asked what wind and dust monitoring is done to the East of the site. People who live in the area know, that the prevailing winds are from the West. If there's no monitoring down Powells Road, there needs to be.

A11. Question taken on notice.

Q12. Mick Boller advised in Meeting 1 he had asked a question about a koala sighting. The response provided by Bowdens Silver advised that the koala was not located on Bowdens Silver property. Mick noted that it was located across the road from Bowdens Silver property.

A12. Question taken as a comment. As previously stated, impact on any local koala population will be covered in the EIS process. **Note:** *Mick Boller has subsequently provided further information on the location of the koala sighting. The koala was sighted on the western side of Powells Road, nearby the entrance to the property "Rosewarne".*

➤ Bowdens to advise.
Question on notice.

➤ Bowdens to respond.
Question on notice.



Q13. Mick Boller advised people want to know how far away they are from this project. Yes they can measure from a map themselves, but maybe not as accurate. Mick advised he had taken data from the nearest bore hole from his property and it was 2.2 km. Mick advised that he is possibly planning on renovations to his house, but if he's going to have to move, obviously doesn't want to proceed with that.

A13. Question taken on notice. To be clarified.

Q14. Mick Boller asked when the EIS was due.

A14. Jane Munro advised that Bowdens is currently expecting mid-year, but no specific month identified yet.

Scott Munro advised that Bowdens Silver is aiming to have the feasibility study complete by end of the first quarter (i.e. end of March/April).

The Chair clarified that all the experts conduct the feasibility study, then that feeds into the EIS.

The Chair sought confirmation that at the next meeting, Bowdens Silver should be able to answer Mick's previous question on distance?

Jane Munro advised that there should be a map showing the final area for this mine.

Q15. Mick Boller commented that while he has been unhappy with some of the minutes from the previous meetings in earlier CCCs, the Lue Action Group are happy with the minutes from Meeting 1 and haven't felt it necessary to circulate separate minutes to the group.

A15. Question taken as a comment.

Q16. James Armitage advised that he undertook some research after Meeting 1 regarding lead and young people, and would like to be able to provide some answers to people around the impact of lead. The research suggested that a large number of lead exposure/contamination is from the smelting process is that correct?

A16. Jane Munro advised that they had some information up at a past Lue open day, with posters about lead.

Sonia Christie remarked that the information on those posters was very non-specific, and the community need details.

Blake Hjorth advised that the lead expert at the next meeting would be able to provide advice on this question.

The Chair advised that the Committee will hear from a lead expert in Meeting 3, and then should the Committee feel the need for further information, options can be discussed then.

Q17. Tom Combes noted that many of the concerns of the community stem from the mine being an open cut proposal. Tom sought reasoning behind why the mine isn't underground.

A17. Scott Munro advised that it wouldn't be an economic proposition to do underground mining. The majority of similar deposits around the world are open cut. The minority of projects that are underground do so due to the high grade and greater depth.

Q18. Sally Dryburgh asked if this project is unique and whether there are other silver mines to reference in Australia.

A18. Scott Munro advised this is the largest undeveloped silver deposit in Australia. There are similar deposits in Mexico or Peru. In terms of size, this project would be classed as a moderate operation.

➤ Bowdens to provide map of final area at Meeting 3.

➤ Bowdens to provide map of final area at Meeting 3.

➤ Lead expert to advise re: lead exposure at Meeting 3.



<p>Sally commented that she suspects the standards of operation wouldn't be as good in those countries.</p> <p>Scott advised that he had visited many mines overseas, and that Australia is leading the way in safety and standards.</p> <p>Sonia Christie asked whether the Texas Silver Mine is bigger or smaller than Bowdens.</p> <p>Scott advised that a lot of the mines in that area are very small. Most silver in Australia is produced as a by-product of other mining. There is no precedent for a silver mine in Australia like Bowdens, however there are similar mines overseas.</p> <p>Q19. Bradley Bliss asked what would be the expected lifespan of the open cut mine.</p> <p>A19. Scott Munro advised the proponent is still completing the feasibility, and once that is complete, Bowdens Silver can be more definitive. The range of operation previously provided in Meeting 1 was 10-20 years of operations.</p> <p>Q20. Mick Boller asked regarding Scott Munro's experience with Cadia East mine, and what the impact zone around the mine was.</p> <p>A20. Scott Munro advised he didn't work for the proponent, but lived close to the processing plant for 10 years. In terms of engagement, they engaged reasonably extensively into community.</p> <p>Level of impact is difficult to describe, but for 99% of the time, there was no impact. Occasionally there may have been a bit of noise and once in that 10 years they may have exceeded the night time restrictions.</p> <p>Scott advised he lived 3 kms from the plant, 4 kms from the open pit, and 4.5 kms from the plant. The open pit is now currently closed and all underground.</p> <p>Q21. John Lydiard asked whether it is possible to quantify the water that is going to be held back on site. Nothing on site will be able to leave the site so is it possible to quantify how much water won't be entering into Lawsons creek.</p> <p>A21. The Chair advised that this question will be responded to at the Meeting 3 with the hydrology expert.</p>	<p>➤ Hydrology expert to advise re: water levels at Meeting 3.</p>
<p>7. Communication with Broader Community</p> <p>The Chair asked for suggestions on how the Committee can communicate to the broader community, as this is an important role of the Committee.</p> <p>Cr John O'Neill suggested the Mid-Western Regional Council's Community News, which is circulated monthly. John also suggested that if the committee will have an upcoming opportunity with an expert, to advertise that beforehand.</p> <p>James Armitage suggested Community Capers community newsletter for the Rylstone Kandos area, and also physical copies in newsagents.</p> <p>Tom Combes suggested possibly putting physical copies of the minutes of each meeting at the Lue pub or school. Maybe even further afield in Rylstone etc.</p> <p>Blake Hjorth advised he would investigate if these suggestions are possible.</p>	<p>➤ Cr John O'Neill to investigate at next Council meeting and report back.</p> <p>➤ Blake Hjorth to investigate various options and report back.</p>



<p>8. Meeting Dates for 2018</p> <p>BSPCCC Meeting 3 5.30 – 7.30 pm 10 April 2018</p> <p>Venue: Mid-Western Regional Council, 86 Market Street, Mudgee (TBC)</p>	<p>➤ Bowdens to organise venue.</p>
<p>9. Agenda Items for Meeting 3</p> <p>Meeting 3 will focus on discussion around surface and ground water, health, and lead, with experts in attendance to answer questions.</p>	<p>➤ Bowdens to organise experts to attend Meeting 3.</p>
<p>10. CLOSE MEETING</p> <p>The Chair thanked Committee members for attending and their positive participation and contributions.</p> <p>Meeting closed 7.40 pm.</p>	



Appendix A

CCC Site Tour 14th February 2018

Attendees

Bowdens Silver	CCC Members
Blake Hjorth (Community Liaison Officer) Scott Munro (Senior Project Geologist) Tom Purcell (Environmental Officer) Grace Barber (Geologist) James Keech (Farm Manager) Tom Klein (Geologist) Georgie King (HR)	Darryl Watkins (Chairperson) Marc Snape (Minute Taker) Jane Munro Mick Boller Tom Combes John Lydiard Sonia Christie Bradley Bliss Sally Dryburgh James Armitage (Apology for tour) John O'Neill

Schedule

Activity	Who?
Welcome and overview of site tour	Blake Hjorth Community Liaison Officer
Brief farm overview Visitor site induction	James Keech Farm Manager
Brief geology overview Core displayed on table	Grace Barber Geologist
Vehicle allocation	Blake Hjorth Community Liaison
Site tour in vehicle convoy	All
Discussion on proposed infrastructure from vantage point.	Scott Munro Senior Project Geologist
Brief overview of environmental testing at monitoring station.	Tom Purcell Environmental Officer
CCC Meeting as per formal agenda	CCC Members