

BSPCCC Meeting 10 - Minutes

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

Actions

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

Minutes

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix A



BOWDENS **SILVER**

Community Consultative Committee

24 November 2020



EIS AGENCY ADVICE

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

No objections from any of the Agencies.

EIS SUBMISSIONS

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



BOWDENS **SILVER**

Community Investment Program



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

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

CURRENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

CURRENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMS

MAJOR SPONSORSHIPS

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

SPONSORSHIPS

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

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.**

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).

LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES & LAND USE IDEAS

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

COMMUNITY IDEAS?

Blake Hjorth

Community Liaison Officer

T: (02) 6373 6420

blakehjorth@bowdensilver.com.au

Site: 68 Maloneys Road, Lue NSW 2850

Post: PO Box 1115, Mudgee NSW 2850

