

Bowdens Silver Project CCC - Meeting 11 – Minutes

Meeting	Bowdens Silver Project CCC - Meeting 11
Date	Wednesday, 9 June 2021
Location	Via Videoconference
Time	5.30 – 7.30 PM
Independent Chair	Darryl Watkins
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) John Lydiard, Community Member (JL) Sally Dryburgh, Community Member (SD) Alex Karavas, Mid-Western Regional Council representative (AK) Sean Halse, Independent minute taker (SH)
Apologies	none

Actions

Item	Responsible
1. DW will raise the lead issue (at the school) with Steve O'Donoghue from the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE / the Department) and report back at the next meeting	DW
2. TC to notify DW as to when the next Lue RFS AGM is to be held so the date can be added to the final minutes	TC
3. TP to provide activity approval documents (drilling sites) to BB and discuss the best way to provide them (e.g. Dropbox)	TP
4. DW will talk to the Department before the next meeting and put them on notice the committee are seeking answers about when a change / modification requires a new submission, application or EIS. 5. JL will raise this question at the next meeting.	DW JL
6. TC to provide names of landholders who are not receiving mail to BH.	TC and BH
7. DW noted that the question of water agreements and the water source will be asked at the next meeting.	DW
8. DW will clarify what a 'unique submission' in response to the EIS is with the Department before the next meeting.	DW

Minutes

Minutes	Action
<p>Welcome & videoconferencing ground rules (DW)</p> <p>BB – Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>DW thanked Brad and welcomed all participants. DW outlined the videoconferencing rules and how the meeting will be run especially regarding Q and A.</p> <p><i>Code of Conduct & Pecuniary / non-pecuniary interests (DW)</i></p> <p>DW reinforced the code of conduct and pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests. Noting he has not had any updates on pecuniary interests and asked participants if they needed to update the group. No updates provided.</p>	
<p>Apologies & CCC membership update (DW)</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>Meeting 10 - Action Items (DW)</p> <p>DW noted there are four action items from the previous CCC meeting (Meeting 10)</p> <p><i>Action Item 1 and 2</i></p> <p>The first two action items were DW investigating an issue raised by MB about data used in the EIS (around lead paint at the Lue school) and a related Question on Notice.</p> <p>DW noted that he needs to talk to the Department further, and he had informed MB of this approach. He also noted that there had been a response to a Question on Notice and Steve O’Donoghue (from the Department) and DW was going to follow up. DW had called Steve but as yet they haven’t managed to speak.</p> <p>MB expressed concerns around data being used in a table (4.49) in the EIS and that his reading is that it is different to data being used by the Department of Education.</p> <p>DW noted that TM has responded in the past by saying that it is not related to the silver project.</p> <p>TM agreed and highlighted that it was historical lead in paint that is throughout Australia and from exhaust emissions.</p> <p>DW will talk to Steve O’Donoghue and report back at the next meeting, noting that the group does not have the expertise needed so DW need the information from the Department to resolve this matter.</p> <p><i>Action item 3</i></p> <p>TC and TM to meet with the Lue RFS to discuss opportunities for future funding.</p> <p>TC noted that they had a phone call and things have not moved beyond that. There was discussion in the CCC meeting and strong disagreement/opinion regarding who said what on the phone call.</p> <p>TC stated that TM and Bowdens employees can attend an RFS meeting at any time. TM sought for TC to book a meeting with Bowdens and the Lue RFS executive. TC recommended TM and Bowdens employees attend the AGM to introduce themselves and then seek a meeting with the executive.</p> <p>TM stated that Bowdens has offered several times to help fix the water bore and pump at the RFS.</p>	<p>DW Action</p>

<p>There was inconclusive discussion about Council being responsible, that Bowdens should speak to Council and that Bowdens had spoken to Council. DW sought clarification on the action item and TC responded that he has formally invited TM to attend the AGM of the Lue rural fire brigade and would get back to DW about when the meeting is being held so it could be included in the minutes. TM sought to clarify that Bowdens would like to present at the meeting and TC confirmed that is fine and everyone is welcome.</p> <p><i>Action item 4</i> DW to contact all CCC members regarding whether they wish to stay on as members. DW noted that he has done this, and all members still wish to continue on the Bowdens Community Consultation Committee.</p>	<p>TC to notify DW as to the date for when the Lue RFS AGM is being held</p> <p>Closed</p>
<p>Status of Bowdens Silver Project EIS submission responses (TM/BH) includes Bowdens Community Consultation Update</p> <p><i>*note some comments were made about submission responses. DW suggested these be raised after the presentation if not addressed as part of the presentation.</i></p> <p>TM and BH gave a detailed presentation – two slide packs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bowdens Silver – Community Consultative Committee, 9 June 2021. - Bowdens Silver – Mining Lease, Amendment Application and Response to Submissions <p>A copy of the presentations are at Attachment A.</p>	
<p>Q&A and Discussion (ALL) Following the presentation by Bowdens an orderly Q & A session followed:</p> <p><i>Response to submissions - timing</i> DW noted earlier questions from SC around reasons why there has been a delay in responding about submissions. TM responded that the presentation covered the issues (Slides 15-17 - Mining Lease, Amendment Application and Response to Submissions). TM noted that there was a significant response and questions on the Tailing Storage Facility (TSF). Although not substantial issues raised from any of the Government Departments in that regard. He stated that ordinarily the preliminary design of the TSF, which is what is submitted in the EIS, is considered to be fit for purpose for reporting at this stage. However, because there was commentary locally and further afield Bowdens, in discussions with their advisors, decided they wanted to provide further information on mitigation options sooner. TM noted that ordinarily the preliminary design of the TSF is submitted with the EIS and then through the approval process the definitive engineering works that happen as part of a TSF, including mitigation options, is done later. Bowdens are now working on providing more details on mitigation options that will be presented as part of the response to submissions. TM stated that the definitive engineering works are likely to happen during the course of next year.</p>	

SC noted that the community put together their response to the EIS in a short period of time but the response to submissions hasn't been provided and it has been double or triple the amount of time provided to respond to the EIS. Noting that the TSF is only one of the issues raised in submissions. SC suggested a response could have been that Bowdens were looking at a number of issues and there has been a delay because of experts in regard to certain issues.

SC noted that at the last CCC Bowdens stated the response would be provided in December, a letter was sent out in May, it is now June, and the community is still waiting.

TM apologised for the delay and noted that the complexity of these sorts of projects always exceeds what initial expectations are. He noted the issues are very complex, there are a number of consultants involved and there are a number of issues to work through (each complex with their own consultants). In addition, they need to have a dialogue with government and do peer reviews. TM noted that there are a lot of processes they do not control but they are working to get things done in a timely manner. He also stressed that the most important point of all is that 'things must be done correctly', and sometimes doing things correctly takes more time. In this case things have taken significantly more time than Bowdens wanted.

DW noted that in conversations with some committee members he has highlighted that these kinds of projects are complex and at times it is not Bowdens fault.

DW suggested however that it would have been good practice to keep the community informed and inform the community sooner that due to the complexities of the response to submissions that there is a delay and the company will make every endeavour to get matters finalised.

BH acknowledged DW's point and commented that part of the process has been ensuing that all of the submissions and all of the themes within those submissions, of which there are many, are adequately addressed. He acknowledged that they have been stuck but also want to provide actual outcomes in response and these outcomes are still being worked on.

TC expressed concern that a timeline of two weeks for submission responses was given at the December meeting and the fact that it is now six months later undermines the integrity of the committee with the community. The committee reports to the community but there are now questions about whether they can rely on the information that's coming out of the committee.

DW disagreed and commented that the committee is working well and in fairness to TM and Bowdens it is a complex matter and the responses to submissions can take time.

TC and DW continued discussion around information given at the meeting and timelines provided.

Drilling pads

BB asked if the drill pad sites have been surveyed by Aboriginal people and was 50m by 50m done. He noted it is an important matter and he will be asked.

TP said not 50m, but all due diligence has been done under a range of different approvals and following the due diligence guidelines for NSW.

BB noted that the Aboriginal community has a big problem with the guidelines.

TP noted that the guidelines issue is outside the community consultative committee forum but they are aware of that concern and the reviews of

DW noted he will raise the question again and JL should raise it at the next meeting. He also noted he will talk to the Department before the next meeting and put them on notice the committee are seeking answers to this important question.

Drilling - notifications

SC noted that it had been brought to her attention that no detail (times, dates) was given to neighbours or residents prior to drilling.

BH commented that it is a continuation of drilling and updates had been provided on the website and a letter sent that states the drilling is on Bowdens land and if on neighbour's land in consultation with other landholders. He also noted that drilling is operating within existing days and times and although the company has approval to drill on weekends, they have limited it primarily to Monday-Friday.

DW sought clarification regarding website updates.

BH noted that drilling is a moving operation so it is hard to say 'we will be at this place on Monday' for example.

SC clarified that providing a starting and end date, which days drilling would occur (e.g. week days not weekends) and between what times would be sufficient.

BH indicated that he was happy to provide more details if needed.

TC commented that he had not heard drilling lately, TP stated that this is probably partly because of the location of the drilling and that diamond core is quieter.

Powerlines

TC asked whether the powerline would still be moved to the south.

BH indicated that the powerline would be west of the pit site.

TC asked about plans for power / electricity for the site.

BH noted that there were several options presented in the EIS and the best option seems to be 'turning off from Bylong Valley Way near the Breakfast Creek area' this would utilise existing easements such as road reserves and corridors and private properties under agreements.

TC asked where the main power was coming from.

BH stated that it is coming from the south off the existing line off Bylong Valley Way. He also noted that studies have been done to ensure there is enough voltage.

BB asked if survey work had been done on the powerline route.

BH responded that when the route is finalised then survey work will be done as per the normal requirements.

JL sought clarification on whether the powerline was going to be completely new because existing infrastructure isn't able to provide enough power to run the mine and what size line it would be.

BH noted that at some points it would be new infrastructure and at other points it would be upgrades, he stated that the line was a 66kV.

JL said that that size powerline has a larger footprint than a normal powerline and that require further investigation.

BH agreed it is a big project and Bowdens have external consultants working on it.

JL asked for clarification on whether the power will come along the 500kW corridor.

BH confirmed it is not using this corridor and once the route is finalised there will be a number of assessments done, including Aboriginal heritage.

Mining lease application

SC asked if there was a notification for the community because her understanding is that it provides another opportunity for landholders to make a submission if they have not made one previously. She noted that the mining lease application was submitted in May.

BH said there was a notification in the *Mudgee Guardian* and the *Australian* newspaper which had all the details and a map of the proposed mine lease boundary as well as contact details. Separately, in addition to the website, letters were sent to private landholders within the mining lease boundary including landholders such as electricity providers.

Mail

TC stated that some landholders did not receive a letter.

BH responded that the only mail that was returned was to JL and he had delivered it himself (after it was returned).

DW asked if the issue of letters not arising could be looked at, BH noted that other than contacting Australia Post an option could be people providing him the names or people contacting him.

DW suggested names could be provided to BH.

TC agreed he can follow up.

Water agreements

SC asked if details had been provided about water agreements.

BH stated that conversations are still ongoing, and that information is commercial in confidence.

SC asked where water would be sourced.

BH indicated that information would be in the response to submissions.

DW agreed with BH and noted that the question can be asked at the next meeting.

Funding (the mine)

SC asked about funding and how, apart from shareholder funding, the mine will be funded.

TM responded that it is a mix of equity and project finance. Equity being further ownership in the company, and project finance being people investing in the project. TM noted that the market is solid at the moment so equity and / or project finance are relatively easy to access.

SC asked if Bowdens were planning on selling the mine or running the mine.

TM responded that SVL plan on running the mine (not selling).

EIS responses

MB noted that the letter received about submissions said that 79% of respondents support the project. He asked if information could be provided about the breakdown of respondents, e.g. location, a proforma submission or not and whether he could get information on what percentage of those in support were residents living in a 10km radius of the proposed project.

BH confirmed 79% is correct and that information on regional breakdown would be provided in the response to submissions.

TC action

DW action

<p>SC noted that DPIE said they would provide a breakdown at the previous meeting. There was discussion about what a unique submission (v proforma) was and whether until the breakdown had been provided whether using those numbers appropriate.</p> <p>BH noted those numbers were appropriate as they are listed on the DPIE Major Projects portal and gave examples of unique submissions despite the wording being similar or the same.</p> <p>DW will clarify what a unique submission is with the Department before the next meeting.</p>	<p>DW Action</p>
<p>Communication with Broader Community (All)</p> <p>DW asked went around the room and asked each individual CCC member their feedback from the CCC members interaction with the community.</p> <p>BB made a general comment that people from around the community, not just aboriginal people, read the EIS with the idea that ‘it’s going to be a lead mine, not a silver mine’ and that the reputation is still not good.</p> <p>SD stated that feedback from Mudgee and the Chamber of Commerce has been minimal, things are quiet. It may step up once the response to submissions has been finalised. DW suggested it would be good for SD to let us know at the next meeting of specific matters of interest to the CCC.</p> <p>AK concurred with SD this is also his understanding.</p> <p>JL noted he heard second hand that one of the drilling crew said breaking ground is 6 months away. He also noted that things are quiet, he thinks because people are waiting for the response to submissions.</p> <p>MB was fine.</p> <p>TC noted concerns around the slow response to submissions and that people took a lot of time and effort to provide their submissions.</p> <p>SC asked DW if this was the new segment for the meeting. DW stated that this has always been on the CCC meeting agenda and it was good practice to seek feedback from the community from all CCC members.</p> <p>DW noted that the Bowdens team had obviously been busy on the project, but DW noted the feedback from the CCC that the community consultation for the delay in the EIS response to submissions could have been better.</p>	
<p>General business (DW)</p> <p>DW thanked the CCC members for their attendance. DW stated that there was interesting and informative discussion. DW raised the fact that at times the discussion can get passionate however important matters that may impact the community were raised.</p>	
<p>Next meeting (DW)</p> <p>Monday 12th July. 5:30pm.</p> <p>DWs preference is face to face but it will depend on NSW Health’s COVID advice. DW noted the Department is interested in the next CCC meeting face to face because they can also arrange to meet others in the community at the same time.</p>	
<p>CLOSE MEETING – 7.30PM</p>	



BOWDENS **SILVER**

Community Consultative Committee

9 June 2021





SUMMARY

- **Corporate Update**
- **Community Update**
- **Site Activities Update**
- **Mining Lease Application, Amendment Application and Response to Submission Update**
- **Next CCC Meeting**



BOWDENS **SILVER**

Corporate Update





BOWDENS **SILVER**

Community Update



COMMUNITY UPDATE

- **Ongoing consultation continues across a range of stakeholders:**
 - **Local residents, landholders and interested parties.**
 - **State and Local Government representatives.**
 - **Local businesses.**
 - **Local schools.**
- **Website and mailout updates on overall project, Mining Lease Application and exploration activities.**
- **Engagement with local schools in Lue, Rylstone and Kandos discussing opportunities for education support, sponsorship and support.**
- **Community newsletter summarising main themes and outcomes from Submissions Report will be sent to community members following lodgement of report.**

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

- The program continues to operate and expand with recent focus on liaising with local schools in Lue, Rylstone and Kandos to understand how Bowdens Silver can provide support across a range of ideas:
 - Additional learning spaces.
 - Revamp of current play equipment and learning spaces.
 - Aboriginal mentoring program for indigenous students.
 - Discussions on involvement from Bowdens Silver staff to support learning where appropriate.
- Continued support provided for Mudgee Rugby, Mudgee Netball, Mudgee Show, Mudgee Chamber Business Awards.
- Since last CCC meeting, Bowdens Silver has committed support to a range of community groups and events:
 - Lue Public School P&C
 - Max Potential – mentoring KHS student
 - Kandos Community Charity Shop
 - Kandos Men’s Shed
 - Mudgee Playgroup
 - Rylstone Bullarama
 - Kandos Public School



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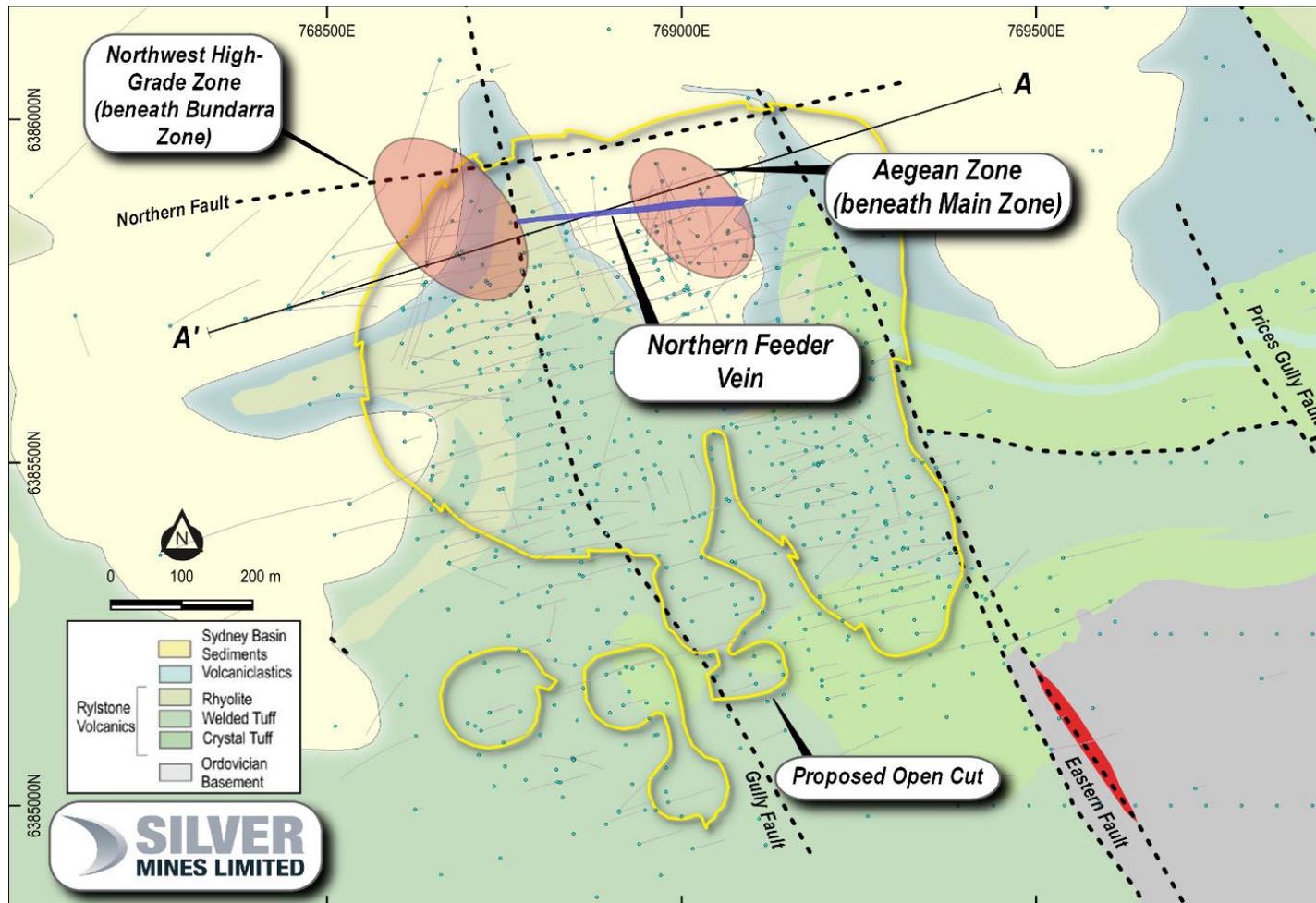
Site Activities Update



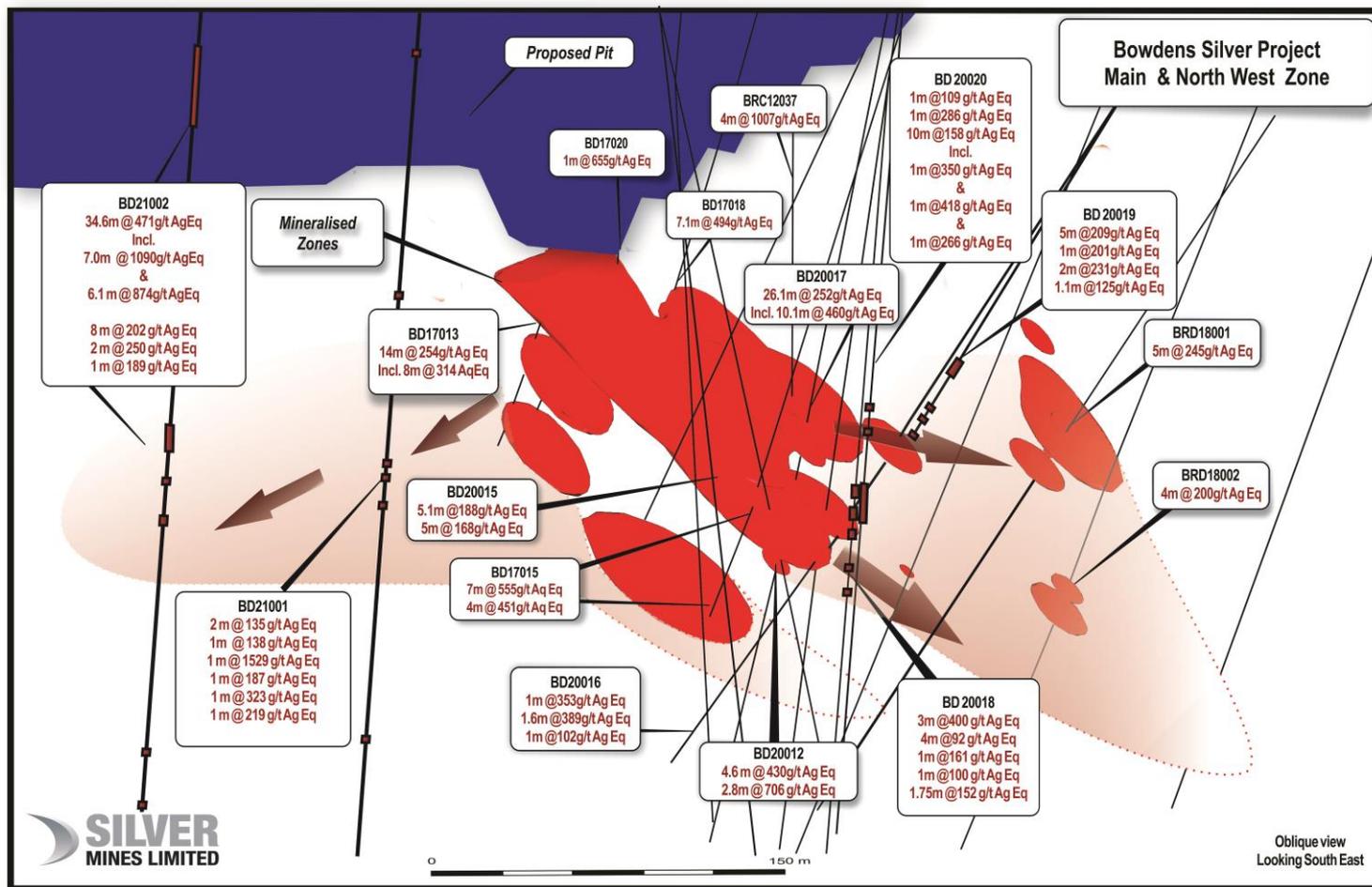
SITE ACTIVITIES UPDATE

- Six new permanent roles created in past months across geology, field services, accounting and farming.
- Expansion of drilling activities.
- 4 rigs currently on site involved in mineral exploration.
- Expanded drilling program with 30,000 metres of drilling committed to.
- Drilling will continue to at least the end of 2021.
- Potential underground mining scenarios.
- Two University of NSW students are currently completing honours and masters projects on Company projects.

SITE ACTIVITIES UPDATE



SITE ACTIVITIES UPDATE

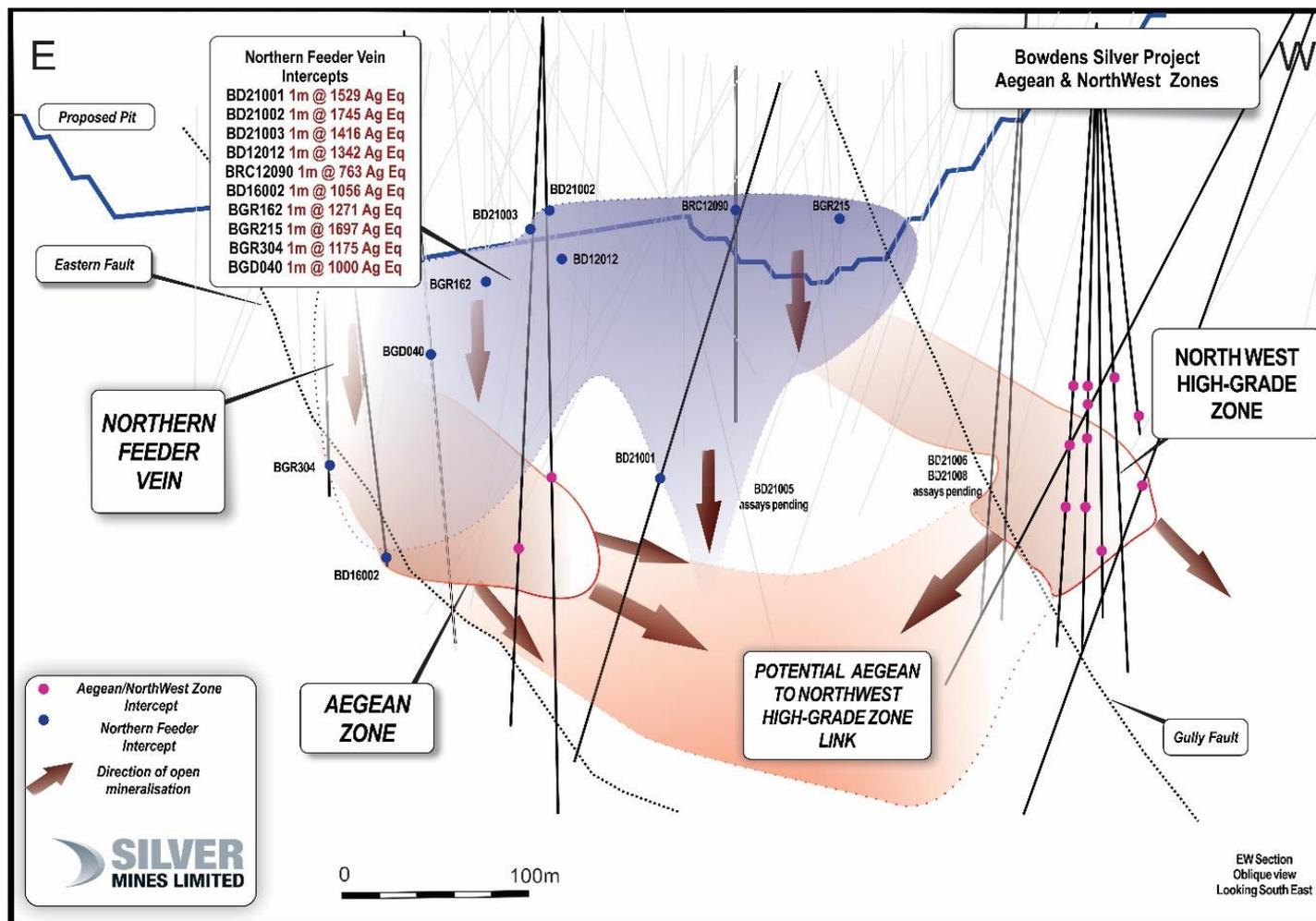


SITE ACTIVITIES UPDATE

- Northwest High-Grade Zone consists of several stacked mineralised horizons 5-25 metres thick, with a width of ~200 metres, down-plunge extents confirmed over 300 metres and remains open down-plunge.
- Results include:
 - 34.6 metres @ 471g/t silver equivalent (413g/t silver, 1.14% lead, 0.39% zinc) from 96 metres in DB21002; including:
 - 7.0 metres @ 1090g/t silver equivalent (966g/t silver, 2.86% lead, 0.56% zinc) from 97 metres; and
 - 6.1 metres @ 874g/t silver equivalent (789g/t silver, 1.67% lead, 0.59% zinc) from 122 metres.
- Aegean Zone consists of high grade silver mineralisation strike length 150 metres, a width of 50 metres and 2 to 8 metres thick.
- Latest results include:
 - 8.0 metres @ 543 g/t silver from 307 metres; including:
 - 3.0 metres @ 1302 g/t silver from 312 metres.



SITE ACTIVITIES UPDATE





BOWDENS **SILVER**

*Mining Lease, Amendment
Application and Response to
Submissions*



MINING LEASE and AMENDMENT APPLICATION

Mining Lease Application

- Submitted in March 2021.
- Process and approval is conditional on approval of the Bowdens Silver Project.

Amendment Application

- Bowdens Silver has requested an amendment to the Project to include the realignment of the 500kV powerlines that traverse the proposed mine site.
- Changes due to Transgrid process which require the powerlines be included and assessed in the overall development application.
- The powerline realignment was already comprehensively assessed within the EIS – field surveys for biodiversity and Aboriginal heritage, construction impacts including noise and air quality.
- Amendment accepted by DPIE and report will be submitted shortly.

RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

- Undergoing final specialty consultant reviews.
- Comprehensive review of submissions has resulted in no change to technical outcomes / conclusions for the Project. Testament to the comprehensive assessment undertaken.
- Individual plants of *Swainsona Recta* were observed during routine monitoring. Subsequent field surveys identified *Swainsona Sericea* as well. Assessment of impact to these plants has been incorporated in the Biodiversity Assessment Report.
- Consultation with the EPA has confirmed that the TSF satisfies the EPA's liner policy with regards to seepage (permeability).
- Bowdens Silver has investigated additional mitigation for the TSF.

RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

- **Additional water balance modelling has been undertaken to look at low rainfall scenarios.**
- **Refinements have been made to the noise modelling assessments for construction and road noise assessments but these did not change the outcomes.**
- **Additional review of metal concentrations in dust has been completed and resulted in no change to the conclusions of assessment.**
- **Review of the human health risk assessment has been undertaken and resulted in no change to the conclusions of assessment.**
- **Planning Agreement with MWRC close to being finalised.**

NEXT CCC MEETING

Response to Submissions

- Provide outcomes from the Response to Submissions process in further detail.
- Principal consultants RW Corkery & Co will be in attendance to discuss outcomes and answer questions.