

MEETING: **Bowdens Silver Project CCC – Meeting 16**

DATE: Wednesday 8 November 2023

LOCATION: Parklands Resort, Mudgee

TIME: 5.00 pm – 7.30 pm (Scheduled) 5.05pm – 7.45 pm (Actual)

INDEPENDENT CHAIR: David Ross (DR)

ATTENDEES: Joel Ray, Bowdens Silver (JR)
Blake Hjorth, Bowdens Silver (BH)
Tom Purcell, Bowdens Silver (TP)
Tom Combes, Community Member (TC)
Sonia Christie, Community Member (SC)
John Lydiard, Community Member (JL)
Gary Rush, Mudgee Region Action Group (GR)
Bradley Bliss, Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (BB)
Cr Robbie Palmer, Mid-Western Regional Council (RP)

APOLOGIES: Phillip Freeman, Community Member (PF)

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

DR welcomed members to the first meeting for 2023. Notified those in attendance of the resignations of Sally Dryburgh (SD) and Mick Boller (MB). Informed members of his intent to advertise for new members.

ACTION: DR to write letters of thanks to SD and MB.

DR introduced Gary Rush (GR) as a new member to the committee representing Mudgee Region Action Group.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

DR is paid a fee to chair CCC meetings as is JB for taking the minutes. JL advised that he had sold land to Bowdens and is currently leasing the land back for farming.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES:

All members in attendance agreed that the previous minutes were a true and concise record of the last meeting.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

DR advised he had recently received correspondence from SC. This covered the future management of human health-related risks and the risk of seepage from tailings. Bowdens requested to take the correspondence on notice and provide a detailed reply to CCC members prior to the next meeting.

SC requested information to be incorporated into the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP).

ACTION: Bowdens to respond to SC's correspondence by the next meeting.

DR then referred to questions received via MB from a member of the wider community (**Appendix 2**). The community member was concerned with the timeliness and quality of responses to some questions.

JR wished to respond to these. He noted that Bowdens had originally received correspondence from the community member, dated 8.8.23, with questions on air quality and the modelling of lead distribution in the area.

Joel observed that the initial question was different to what has been supplied. A response was then forwarded to the community member on 24.8.23, incorporating all details of the modelled testing. On the same day, the community member sent a reply to ask about results for two sites. JR acknowledged that there were relevant staff away at this time and a second response was provided on 18.9.23 to specific questions.

A brief discussion then took place about whether Bowdens would be testing for heavy metals. JR noted that testing was not required because the mine is not undertaking any activities that will result in heavy metal pollution. In response, members highlighted the current community concerns about the operations at Cadia mine.

JR observed that he would talk in relation to this later in the meeting when he presented on the instigation of an expert steering committee and baseline monitoring program.

TC questioned what Bowdens was doing with respect to the high level of concern shown by community member who had questions tabled. How often had they been in contact?

BH - Bowdens has sent over 40 emails to specific community member in relation to the mine since 2016/17. They prefer to correspond via email.

DR asked JR, BH and TP to consider the level of concern shown by the particular member in future interactions.

6. UPDATE ON PROJECT

Project Advancement Overview & Timeline

JR spoke to a slide on the above that covered the updating of the feasibility study, the development of management plans, and a final investment decision (see attached for detail).

A discussion took place regarding the need for temporary worker accommodation. TC expressed concern that the need for such accommodation was different to what had previously been proposed in the 2018 Social Impact Study. BH responded that the position of Mid-Western Regional Council has changed since early discussions and are encouraging us and similar project proponents to construct temporary worker's accommodation facilities to help minimise impacts on tourism supply. RP advised that there could be 6,000 temporary workers in town due to the number of infrastructure projects and proposals within the region. Subsequently, Mudgee does not have enough accommodation.

JR - Council have been talking to Bowdens regarding this issue. Bowdens needs to consider a number of issues, covered in its conditions, including looking at worker accommodation and ways to assist Kandos - Rylstone Area. Bowdens has looked at what sites could be suitable for accommodation and in the last two weeks, has released a request for proposal to various planning companies to review potential sites. Shortly, Bowdens will shortlist two potential sites. This will be temporary worker accommodation (approx. 150 beds) and not a permanent mining town. However, in response to questioning from GR, JR noted that there will be consideration of employing as many locals as possible but noted that some specific skills would require bringing in staff from outside the area. JR reiterated Bowdens' intention for permanent staff to reside in local towns and villages.

Management Plans and CCC Consultation

JR informed CCC members that consultation will be required with the CCC on the Rehabilitation Strategy before commencement of mining and Social Impact Management Plans before commencement of construction.

JL questioned why Bowdens was not providing to the CCC detailed mine design and planning documents for comment. There must be flow on effects.

JR - CCC will not get to review those plans as they are internal documents and do not go to government for approval.

DR – The other plans that we do not see would have to be aligned with the, for example, noise or air quality management plans. Government will be focused on ensuring that the mine spells out how it will manage dust and

noise levels. Management Plans would need to be submitted to Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and shared with other government bodies for input and approval and input.

JR – We still have to meet lengthy criteria as detailed in our conditions of approval.

TC – From what we have heard, there could be modifications or major modifications to what you have proposed. DPE will determine what modification is made.

JR – we expect by mid 2024 to know what modifications may be necessary.

JR then talked about the SIMP and encouraged CCC members to be involved in its development. In particular, he invited members to list what key issues members and the wider community believed needed to be considered in the document. JR asked that the input be as specific as possible to make it easier for him to answer.

SC proposed that the neuropsychometrics testing proposed in her recent correspondence by a medical expert be included in the SIMP.

GR then led a discussion on the social impact assessment (SIA), questioning whether the SIA scoping had been undertaken. He observed that there needed to be appropriate scoping and consultation on the broad community health issues as well as impacts on other industries such as the tourism industry within the region.

BH replied that the SIA scoping has been undertaken as part of the SIA for the EIS. He noted that the SIA is extensive and involved extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders, including Mudgee Region Tourism. For instance, the word “tourism” is mentioned approximately 90 times in the SIA and suggested that recent commentary that the tourism industry wasn’t part of the assessment is incorrect.

GR questioned whether the community has been involved in the assessment. Suggested that Bowdens arrange a workshop and engage with interested parties within the wider community.

JR responded that he did not wish to go backwards, in regards to discussing with the community whether the project should be approved or not. JR stated that the project is moving ahead and there is the opportunity to move forward together.

ACTION: BH to provide link to SIA document for the minutes.

SC expressed her concern that the community had previously provided ideas to Bowdens for consideration but none of these had been accepted. She reminded the CCC that community members are not paid for their precious time.

GR expressed concern that Bowdens appears to be already drafting the SIMP and therefore, it is a done deal. He emphasised that consultation with the community is important and that work on the draft plan should stop.

JR reiterated that the CCC and wider community are invited to submit their ideas and will draft the SIMP with the CCC’s involvement before the document goes to the government. BH observed that the consultants – RW Corkery & Co – have only recently begun work on all of the management plans.

GR questioned whether Bowdens were adhering to the government’s SIA guidelines. This generated a discussion as to whether the guidelines focus on Bowdens efforts in preparing the EIS or also the SIMP.

ACTION: DR to look into SIA guidelines and determine their applicability to SIMP (2 week turn around)

Members were asked to provide input on the SIMP within four weeks. Furthermore, after a lengthy discussion, led by BB, about whether a series of workshops could be undertaken with the CCC, it was determined that a workshop would be held with CCC members in the new year to discuss the to-be-drafted SIMP.

In response to concerns that the SIMP may be a tick-a-box exercise, JR reminded members that if hypothetically, CCC members come back to Bowdens with a list of say 150 items of what the community wants, it’s not possible to do it all straightaway. He would have to evaluate everything.

Members asked if a one page document could be developed about what the SIMP entails.

ACTION: DR to draft forward SIMP briefing sheet to CCC members (2 week turn around)

TC voiced his frustration that, as time has passed, no representatives from Bowdens have been to his property to speak to him. Bowdens needs to make some changes in response to the community's concerns.

JR responded that the IPC and Government have approved the project; however, he understands the concerns that the community has.

Baseline Monitoring Program

JR then shared with the CCC members that he intends to establish a steering committee to develop a Baseline Monitoring Program, made up of independent scientists and government representatives. The committee would focus on human health-related issues and would advise on the baseline monitoring required. He offered CCC members to provide the name of a trusted scientist to be a part of the Steering Committee.

DR informed the committee that he expected that, going forward, there would be regular updates to members on progress made by the steering committee. A lengthy discussion led by BB took place on the steering committee and the quality assurance and quality control (QAQC) processes required. BH responded that such processes would be in place to ensure that results are irrefutable.

Members then questioned JR about the budget he would make available for the steering committee and whether this could limit its effectiveness.

JR - We do not have a specific budget at the moment, but of course there will be limits to what we can afford. But Bowdens will pay for specialist.

SC suggested Professor Mark Taylor as an ideal expert.

Exploration activities

Bowdens are continuing to drill around site. There are two rigs on site but may go back to one. Due to contractor availability, the previously advised bulk sampling program is commencing shortly. There will be three small blasts currently planned for 22 November 2023 to the east of Maloney's Road, which will cause short temporary closure of Maloneys Road (minutes not hours). JR is waiting on final details.

SC spoke about increased koala sightings.

TP advised that this does not change the mining operations as Bowdens will need to ensure that its management plans actively consider this.

7. INTRODUCTION TO REVISED CCC GUIDELINES

DR spoke briefly to a presentation on the Revised CCC Guidelines but reminded members that they already have a copy of the slides.

DR advised he has sent the documentation to CCC members and Bowdens Silver Project representatives. Reiterated CCC is an advisory body only. However, it would be in Bowdens' interests to act on, or truly consider, advice from the CCC.

He reminded members that the minutes are a summary of the meeting. DR also reminded CCC members that he has final say on what goes into the minutes. However, he always intends to show both sides of the discussion.

Members were comfortable with meetings continuing to be held at Parklands Resort and at the same time. DR committed to giving members one month's notice before the next meeting is held.

Code of Conduct

DR spoke to the DPE Code of Conduct that members were to sign. He emphasized that he was comfortable with robust discussions but expected all members to also be respectful towards one another.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

After a lengthy meeting, there was no general business discussed.

9. NEXT MEETING:

Following discussion, it was agreed to hold the next CCC meeting in late January early February 2024 in the form of a workshop. The workshop will be exclusively about the draft Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP).

JR will invite a representative from RW Corkery and Co. to participate in the workshop. It was also stipulated that CCC members must have time to review the draft SIMP prior to the workshop date.

ACTION: DR and JR to discuss appropriate time to hold SIMP workshop.

ACTION: DR to forward draft SIMP to CCC members in due course.

DR thanked everyone for their attendance tonight and wished everyone a special Christmas.

Meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Appendix One: Actions from Meeting

	Action	Date Raised
1	DR to write letters of thanks to SD and MB.	8 th November
2	Bowdens to respond to SC's correspondence by the next meeting.	8 th November
3	BH to provide link to SIA document for the minutes.	8 th November
4	DR to look into SIA guidelines and determine their applicability to SIMP (2 week turn around)	8 th November
5	DR to draft forward SIMP briefing sheet to CCC members (2 week turn around)	8 th November
6	DR and JR to discuss appropriate time to hold SIMP workshop.	8 th November
7	DR to forward draft SIMP to CCC members in due course.	8 th November

Appendix Two: Questions from community member via MB

Why did it take a community member months and inquiries at higher level in the Department of Planning to get an answer to the simple straight forward questions? The original question was received on 8-8-23. BSPL provided a response referring to detailed documents on 24-8-23.

Are you testing for heavy metals concentrations in your air quality monitoring? Community member asked for a condensed answer on 24-8-23. BSPL responded with condensed answer on 18-9-23.

Why was the 'answer' provided 600 pages long when the actual answer to this question was eventually revealed to be No? BSPL interpreted the original question (8-8-23) to be asking for a full set of data.

Why is SVL not testing now for heavy metal concentrations in its air quality monitoring? Because there is no requirement to and BSPL are not conducting mining activities that would generate dust with heavy metals.

How can the community be confident that polite straight forward relevant questions about this project will not continue to be treated with contempt by your company? BSPL has and will continue to provide answers to all reasonable questions and request for information.

Bowdens Silver Project

Community Consultative Committee

8 November 2023



Project Advancement & Timeline

Item	Estimated Timeframe
Project Optimisation	Early 2024
Updating Feasibility Study	Early 2024
Management Plans	
• Drafts	Early 2024
• Finalised	Mid 2024
Board Approval	Early 2024
Temporary Worker's Accommodation	Mid 2024
Modifications	Mid 2024
Project Financing	Mid 2024
Pre-Construction	Mid to late 2024
Construction	Late 2024 – early 2025

Management Plans

Plans required prior to construction:

Noise and Blasting

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas

Heritage

Water

Environmental Management Strategy

Materials Classification Verification Program

Traffic

Biodiversity

Social Impact

Plans required prior to commencement of mining:

Hazardous Material

Rehabilitation Strategy

Bushfire

Note: Some of these require sub-plans within the overall plan.

Management Plans

- Management Plans are being created in conjunction with RW Corkery & Co, specialist consultants and will include input and consultation with NSW Government agencies and stakeholders.
- Consultation will be required with CCC on:
 - Rehabilitation Strategy
 - Social Impact
- Social Impact Management Plan - Opportunity for initial CCC input
 - Community communication and engagement preferences
 - Community investment and local business strategy
 - Workforce accommodation and employment strategy
 - Lead monitoring
 - Overall monitoring and reporting on outcomes

Baseline Monitoring

- We will design and conduct a detailed Baseline Monitoring program.
- The study will independently and scientifically quantify the pre-mining environmental conditions.
- Purpose is to be able to differentiate mine generated dust and metal concentrations.
- Components of the baseline monitoring study will likely include:
 - Isotope determination on Bowdens mine lead and other heavy metals.
 - Fingerprinting of soils and dust samples.
 - Rainwater tank testing.
- The plan is to form a steering committee of independent scientific specialists to design the baseline monitoring program. Bowdens will offer a steering committee seat to:
 - Various NSW Government agencies like DPE, EPA and NSW Health.
- We encourage the CCC to recommend a trusted scientist to participate.
 - Participation means direct receipt of results.

Compliance Monitoring

- We will design and conduct a monitoring network to assess compliance with approved criteria and performance measures contained in the Development Consent.
- Components of the monitoring network will include:
 - Depositional dust gauges
 - Real-time PM10, PM2.5 and lead
 - Hi-volume air samplers
 - Surface, ground and tank water monitoring sites measuring water quality, level & flow
 - Real-time and attended noise
 - Biodiversity plots
- Real-time monitoring sites will inform adaptive management procedures and include automated alerts with trigger levels for predetermined actions to investigate/implement additional controls to prevent exceedances of relevant criteria and performance measures.

Community

- Community team has grown – new Community Liaison Officer – Christine Shearman.
- Commenced distribution of digital Project Update newsletters.
 - Currently sending monthly.
 - Can sign up via our website or request via information@bowdenssilver.com.au
- Main themes of recent community inquiries include:
 - Exploration activities.
 - Environmental monitoring.
 - Property specific questions.
 - Sponsorship opportunities.
 - Employment opportunities.

Exploration Activities

- Ongoing drilling continues on site at the Bowdens Silver Project.
- Regional reconnaissance work through tenement range – mapping, soil and rock sampling, ground geophysical surveys and test pits.
- Previously advised bulk sampling program in the vicinity of the open cut pit to commence in coming weeks. Brief closure of Maloneys Road planned for 22/11/23 – final confirmed details to be sent to local stakeholders shortly.
- Seismic survey successfully completed with data processing underway.

Questions