

Bowdens Lead, Zinc, Silver Project, Mudgee

Issues overview

www.mudgeeregionactiongroup.org

LOCATION

Greenfield area; 2km NE of Lue, 26km E of Mudgee, Central West NSW. Lawson Creek catchment - flows to Cudgegong River and Burrendong Dam.

Project detail:

- Greenfield development
- 1,825ML water take per annum. No external water supply.
- Three open cut pits (52 hectares)
- Tailings dam (117 hectares)
- Acid-forming waste rock dump (77 hectares)
- Low grade ore and oxide ore stockpile (22 hectares)
- Permanent final void (53 hectares)
- Estimated ore volumes over life of mine:
 - Lead - 130,000 tonnes
 - Zinc - 190,000 tonnes
 - Silver - 1,417 tonnes
- Life of mine: 23 years, although active exploration underway closer to Mudgee and Rylstone townships (including current NSW exploration licence application ELA 6610)



>90X

MORE LEAD THAN SILVER



2KM

FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL



826K VISITORS

TO REGION IN 2020-21.

CURRENT STATUS



NSW Independent Planning Commission approved the mine on Monday, 3 April, 2023. Major technical issues dealing with fundamental control of project risks have been pushed to the post approval stage, to be dealt with in yet-to-be created Management Plans.

KEY ISSUES



Social, environmental and economic impacts to the region are unacceptable, including:



LEAD



**WATER
QUANTITY AND
QUALITY**



BIODIVERSITY

IMPACTS



Lead contamination

1

130kt of lead will be disturbed. NSW approval requires blood lead level testing to be provided to community, including primary school students. NSW DPE Assessment fails to consider dust borne lead risk to human health, agribusiness and tourism.

Water quantity and quality

2

Water intensive project (1825ML per annum), with no external water supply. Water modelling is flawed, and fails to identify and assess impacts on ground and surface water quality and quantity, including from acid mine drainage.

Biodiversity & Cultural Heritage

3

Removal of 180ha of Critically Engangered Box Gum Woodland; removal of 139.59ha of core Koala Habitat; removal of 182.27ha of Regent Honeyeater Habitat; destruction of 25 of the 52 surveyed aboriginal artefacts at the site.