

Submission
No 9

**INQUIRY INTO CURRENT AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF
GOLD, SILVER, LEAD AND ZINC MINING ON HUMAN
HEALTH, LAND, AIR AND WATER QUALITY IN NEW
SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 23 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

My name is _____ and I am a resident of Kandos situated in the Central West region of NSW, near Mudgee and Lue, the site of Bowdens silver mine.

I have grave concerns for the, in my view, extremely irresponsible and neglectful, way in which the present government has so far been allowing mining of highly toxic minerals to be conducted in areas, and in a manner, where the health, livelihood and possibly even lives of citizens are put into jeopardy.

By the same token I'd also like to thank the Legislative Council Committee for inquiring into this grave and urgent situation.

I'll address here only two of the many terms of reference pertaining to this enquiry.

1. The potential **poisoning of human beings.**

- The way in which mines operate at present means that a lot of **toxic substances inevitably leak into the atmosphere and waterways.**
- To take myself as an example, living where I do and working in Mudgee I will inevitably be, at the very least, breathing lead from the operations at Bowdens Silver, at Lue. I'm only one of roughly 20,000 who live in the immediate region.
- **Foetuses and young children are particularly affected by lead poisoning.**

As a solution to this problem of dangerous pollution I would think that:

- **legislating** against such mining (of highly toxic substances) in areas where a **significant number of people live normal lives**, like those in the city do, is a good and **urgent** start.
- I'd like to add here that simply **holding the mining companies accountable** is not enough as their main **obligations are to their shareholders** and not the wellbeing and health of civilians. **The government**, whose job is above all the wellbeing of its citizens, **needs to hold itself responsible.**

2. The **critical timing** of this enquiry.

- Once more **toxic metal mines** start operating in the Central West region, **in close proximity to populous settlements, without regards to their inhabitant's safety** precedents will be set and **legislation against such negligent practices** will become more difficult to come by.

As a solution I ask that the Legislative Council Committee:

- Acts quickly.

- Acts in a way that **puts the onus on the government to do the right thing, as the mining companies' priorities are not the health of the general population.**
- Acts in a way **that makes the government responsible for its citizen's health. Not private companies from another sector.**

Thank you for your consideration of my perspective.