

**Submission
No 16**

**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: Ms Gabrielle Bates

Date Received: 25 August 2023

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Dear Portfolio Commission, NSW Government,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit my concerns regarding the approved Bowdens Silver Mine in Lue, NSW.

My concern about the mine was triggered by data coming from communities living near Cadia goldmine in Central West NSW. Their information about the mine's consistent breach of safety standards and toxic airborne pollution affecting their health was alarming.

Bowdens Silver Mine is very much like Cadia goldmine, and it is close to my home in Kandos. I moved from Sydney to Kandos for its friendly community as well as its fresh clean air and rainwater which I harvest and use to grow my own food. I swap this food with my neighbors, cultivating healthy relationships as well as good nutrition with zero carbon footprint. I am gravely concerned that the heavy metal air pollution from the mine will put an end to a way of living that is based on ecological integrity and community care.

I understand that the assessment and approval process for the Bowden's mine is tipped in favour of the mine. The reports don't match the experience of communities near big mines, which are constantly affected by dust and water pollution. The Mudgee region is facing an oncoming drought in where water availability and dust management will impact both the Bowden's mine and the community. With Cadia's failed tailings dam in mind, the large Bowden's tailing dam will seep 1.6 ML of contaminated water daily into beautiful Lawsons Creek which is a vital water source for tourism, agriculture, viticulture and Gulgong.

It is well known that heavy metal exposure gravely impacts human health. We must ensure that lead pollution from the Bowdens Silver Mine is heavily monitored so that the terrible long term health problems of communities like Mt Isa and Broken are not repeated.

I urge the DP and IPC to engage independent experts to review proponent information, and the EPA and Department of Health must play a major role in the approvals process and be better resourced to improve regulation.

Sydney has fines of up to \$1.1million for the vandalism of a single tree. It is crucial that government increases penalties and imposes stronger conditions for mining operations to prevent heavy metal contamination of the environment and community.

Thank you again for reading my submission,

Gabrielle Bates