

Submission  
No 60

**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:** 31 August 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

Submission to:

Principal Council

Parliamentary Inquiry

Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health

The current and potential impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, land, air and water quality in New South Wales.

Subject: Comprehensive Concerns Regarding Bowdens Silver Mine Approval

Dear Principal Council,

I, \_\_\_\_\_, residing at \_\_\_\_\_, NSW, wish to express my deep concerns and reservations regarding the proposed approval of the Bowdens Silver Mine. I kindly request that my name be withheld for privacy reasons.

The proposed mine's potential impacts on various aspects of the community and the environment are significant and warrant careful consideration. I implore you to take into account the following points:

**Negative Impacts on Human Health:**

The risk of lead poisoning, especially among school children located within a 2km radius, is a grave concern. Even low levels of exposure can have long-lasting health effects, including cardiovascular issues.

**Impacts on Indigenous Heritage:**

The potential disturbance to Indigenous heritage sites raises considerable cultural and ethical concerns that must be addressed.

**Environmental Monitoring Challenges:**

The feasibility of effectively monitoring the mine's impacts on the environment remains uncertain, which could lead to unforeseen and irreparable damages.

**Leachate and Acid-Mine Drainage:**

The potential for leachate seepage and acid-mine drainage poses a threat to water quality and the surrounding ecosystem.

**Water Quantity and Quality Concerns:**

Given the region's susceptibility to drought, utilizing water for mine operations raises questions about the availability of sufficient water resources for this purpose.

**Economic and Local Community Impact:**

The potential loss of jobs, decline of local businesses, and negative impact on tourism could detrimentally affect the community's livelihood.

**Agriculture, Soil, and Biodiversity Impact:**

The proposed mine's effects on agriculture, soil health, and the existing flora and fauna are worrisome, especially considering the concurrent impact of nearby coal mines.

**Traffic and Road Safety:**

The potential increase in traffic due to mining activities on Kains Flat Road poses risks to road safety and the tranquil atmosphere that visitors to Barella Cabins seek.

**Air Pollution and Health Risks:**

The possibility of toxic air pollution raises health concerns for both residents and visitors in the vicinity.

**Environment, Flora, and Fauna:**

The mine's potential to disrupt the local environment, including flora and fauna, demands thorough assessment to safeguard the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

In addition to these collective concerns, my husband and I operate \_\_\_\_\_ business at the address mentioned above. We fear that the mine's approval could negatively impact both our business and the value of our property. Moreover, as I have a medical diagnosis of cardiomyopathy, the risk of high lead exposure is particularly alarming.

The use of water from the mine site for lead mitigation, coupled with the region's water scarcity and the potential for wind-borne lead particles, adds another layer of concern for our health, land, animals, and agriculture.

Lastly, the environmental repercussions, especially regarding Cooyal Creek and underground bore water, must be evaluated to prevent contamination and long-term damage.

We urge you to consider the cumulative impact of these concerns on our community, environment, and personal well-being. We trust that your decision will prioritize the safety and sustainability of our region.

Thank you for your attention to these critical matters.

Sincerely,