

Submission
No 61

**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

Partially
Confidential

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing as _____, a resident of _____, New South Wales, with postal code _____. It is with grave concern that I wish to address the matter of the Bowdens Silver Mine approval and the potential ramifications that it carries.

Allow me to elaborate my principal concerns regarding this endeavor:

1. Human Health: The anticipated negative effects on public health are a pressing issue.
2. Lead Poisoning and Proximity to Schools: Of particular distress is the risk of lead poisoning, especially for school children residing within a mere 2-kilometer radius.
3. Indigenous Heritage: The impact on our invaluable Indigenous heritage is a matter of great significance.
4. Monitoring Challenges: The inherent difficulties in effectively monitoring and regulating the project are a troubling prospect.
5. Leachate and Acid-Mine Drainage: The potential consequences of leachate and acid-mine drainage are alarming.
6. Water Quality and Quantity: Both the quality and availability of water stand to be compromised.
7. Economic Implications: The potential loss of employment opportunities and the decline of local businesses weigh heavily on my mind.
8. Tourism Decline: An adverse effect on the local tourism sector is a disconcerting possibility.
9. Agricultural and Soil Impact: The repercussions for agriculture and soil quality are considerable.
10. Traffic and Road Safety: The implications for traffic congestion and road safety are not to be underestimated.
11. Risk of Toxic Air Pollution: A heightened risk of toxic air pollution poses a serious concern.
12. Environmental and Ecological Effects: The far-reaching impacts on the environment, as well as flora and fauna, are disquieting.

My primary occupation involves the operation of _____ at the aforementioned address of this submission. The approval of the Bowdens Silver Mine raises serious apprehensions about the potential detriment to both the viability of our business and the resale value of our property. Beyond economic concerns, I am deeply troubled by the potential health risks associated with exploration and mining activities, particularly lead poisoning. Even modest levels of lead exposure can precipitate lifelong health complications, a concern particularly close to me given my wife's diagnosis of cardiomyopathy, affecting her cardiovascular system.

An especially pressing concern is the proposed usage of on-site water resources to manage the considerable volume of disturbed lead, estimated at 130 kilotons. Given the arid nature of our region, water scarcity poses a tangible challenge, exacerbated by the likelihood of lead particles becoming

airborne during prevalent wind events. The prospect of such particles settling on our bodies, lands, livestock, and crops is disconcerting.

Equally disturbing are the potential ecological and environmental ramifications, given the existing stress imposed by the nearby coal mining operations.

Further, the peril of water contamination through Acid Mine Drainage raises red flags, particularly concerning the well-being of Cooyal Creek and the underground bore water within our valley, should exploration and mining proceed.

Lastly, I wish to underscore the impact on road infrastructure. Kains Flat Road serves as a vital link to the region. The augmented vehicular traffic, including substantial truck movements, presents an imminent hazard to the tranquility, safety, and ambiance of the area. The correlation between heightened traffic, elevated accident risk, and amplified noise levels cannot be overlooked.

In summation, I earnestly request a thorough consideration of these concerns prior to any decisions concerning the Bowdens Silver Mine project or any other rural mining activity. The potential implications, spanning health, economic, environmental, and societal domains, warrant careful contemplation.

Sincerely,