

Submission
No 42

**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: Susan and Michael Pridmore

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The Director,
Portfolio Committee No 2 -Health ,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney, NSW 2000

Sunday 4th September, 2023

Dear Director and Colleagues,

RE the Current and Potential impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health , land , air and water quality in New South Wales.

We want to express our deep concern and thus OBJECTION to the planned development of the Bowdens Silver Lead Mine at Lue.

We live within the 10 km radius of Bowdens Mine. Our property is pristine, and borders the 25,000 hectares of the Barrigan Heritage Land Reserve. 96% of our property is in Conservation Agreement with Biodiversity Trust,(originally with National parks and Wild Life). We are a Wild Life Sanctuary. Our livelihood was from our premises and land here at home ,since 1971: originally Pottery, and from 1988 to Retirement in about 2006, an Environmental Native Plant Nursery. We are now retired Pensioners. Our community has always been vital to us, and we have been able to service the community in return. This is why we are so concerned about what may well happen is already happening to our community and environment, under the stressful impact of mining present and in the future.

. The main points are:

1. Health and Medical :Lead poisoning: There is no safe level of lead

2.Water: major issues with both ground and surface water. Contamination, and mismanagement and misjudgements mixed with Climate change and chaos The Mining industry, like us all, has human flaws and irreparable mistakes are inevitable.

3.Environment and Biodiversity Impact: Us humans are as reliant on our natural world, our native flora and fauna, as we are on clean air and water. They are all connected.

4. Danger of Transport and traffic impact on our roads: our roads, both the bituminised and dirt roads between Rylstone-Lue-Mudgee, are already dangerous and fragile. Wildlife abound . Any accident involving transport of chemicals etc would be disastrous.

5.Tourism: This region has a rich and vibrant tourism industry. Nature lovers, wine and olive etc lovers , artists and cultural activities make up the majority of business , with Mudgee in the centre. Bowdens mining would destroy what all these visitors come for. And that would destroy the livelihood of majority of residents, whether towns s people or farmers, in this region

6. Community: The spirit of Community would, is, already being destroyed. Without community, our society will become ill. The myth that mining brings jobs to the community is only partly true. It also takes away employees from existing businesses, leaving them struggling without enough workers, some having to shut up shop.

7. Real Estate and poor accommodation prospects : The impact of mining on real estate is already impacting detrimentally on the availability of rentals for those seeking accommodation in this area. Whether teachers, nurses, or unemployed people, accommodation is now biased towards housing miners who can pay the land lord more than the average other person. Houses are being bought fast for short term accommodation or groups of workers. It is not just too many Air BnB's mushrooming up , but emphasis on desirability of well paid miners. We have witnessed the stress of less well-paid working people being pushed out of the rental market with this dynamic in place.

We hope very much you can take these point on board as you consider the factors surrounding the mining movement generally, and the Lue-Mudgee-Rylstone area specifically. Perhaps, as a world community, we need to come to awareness of our ability as humans to destroy through greed, what in fact is essential for our survival: we need essentials for Life, but are we losing sight of the basic nurturing of simpler things like fresh air and water, Nature, humbler living, simpler joys, and the health provided by good community and simpler needs...?

Signed, Susan and Michael Pridmore

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