

**Submission  
No 44**

**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:** Mrs Lisa Price

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My name is Lisa, and I oppose Bowden's Lead Mine. I am highly concerned regarding the risk of detrimental health impacts (particularly on young children), as well as the concern for increased noise levels, depositional dust and water availability, and the negative impacts on the health, welfare and productivity of our livestock. Additionally, I am concerned regarding the negative impact the mine would have on our local ecosystems, waterways and wildlife.

Our property is a mixed enterprise family farm, and our family currently consists of myself, my husband, my eighteen month old daughter, and our unborn child. As one of Bowden's Lead Mine's closest neighbours, living and farming within 2km of the proposed open-cut site, our young, growing family will be one of the families and properties most impacted if this mine is permitted to go ahead.

My husband's family has worked this land and brought their family up on this property for generations. The children of these generations past all enjoyed an extremely wholesome and idyllic country upbringing playing outdoors, getting dirty, splashing in the creek and breathing the clean country air. This is a lifestyle that we have worked hard to build and have always hope to emulate for our own children. Most importantly however, these children all enjoyed a childhood consisting of the basic rights of breathing clean fresh air, drinking clean water, playing amidst non-contaminated soil, and splashing in non-contaminated local waterways. It is these basic childhood rights that are in jeopardy for our own young children, should this mine go ahead. If Bowden's is allowed to proceed, this dream will be destroyed. Instead of enjoying the same freedom and basic rights as their grandparents and great-grandparents, their childhood will be overshadowed and tainted by the looming threat of lead exposure, which can have detrimental health impacts on young children in particular. There is no safe levels of lead exposure. To advise that our lead exposure should be managed by increased cleaning recommendations is incredibly frustrating and downright infuriating. Even if EVERYTHING was cleaned constantly - Kids play in dirt, they splash in creeks, they pick up rocks and sticks and touch EVERYTHING. This risk will be everywhere. It will not be safe for my little ones to play in the dirt outside. It won't be safe for them to dig in the sand, to splash in the creek on a hot day, or to even pick up their toys without them (and every other surface it seems) having to be wiped down before touching. What kind of childhood is this to be?

Sadly, we will not be able to safely live in our dream home (an 1870s sandstone cottage that we are lovingly restoring). This cottage restoration has been a long-term labour of love and something we put our heart and soul into, and a lot of our finances. Should this mine go ahead, it will not be safe for us and our young children, to live in our cottage, on our farm, to live on the property that has been in our family for generations.

In addition to the lead exposure and subsequent health concerns, the approval of Bowden's mine will lead to increased and unpleasant machinery noise. The existing peaceful serenity of our family home setting will be forever shattered. Instead of enjoying the calming sound of native birds and cows mooing, we will be forced to listen to the sounds of machinery noise. My family also have strong concerns regarding the subsequent depositional dust, which will not only be aesthetically undesirable and annoying for cleaning, but holds potential to pollute our local waterways, and affect both ventilation and visibility on the farm and on our roads, especially when operating machinery and vehicles.

A big concern of ours is also the mine's proposed reliance on our area's water supplies. There is simply not enough water available to support the proposed mine system. During drought,

there is barely enough water to support our own animals and pastures, let alone supply a mine (with tremendous daily water requirements) as well. It has been stated that Bowden's mine will not be given licence to proceed if Bowden cannot prove that there is enough water to manage dust. There simply is not enough water for us sometimes, so there is definitely not enough for their daily mine function, even if they take it all. Their (ongoing) water monitoring for baseline levels up until this point has also been conducted through a well that is also being periodically pumped from for farm use.. this will not give accurate base level measurements. Road safety, with the increase of traffic (large trucks entering and exiting mine) is also an issue. There will increased traffic due to the mine, which the current state of the road (including the windy road from Lue to Mudgee) will struggle to handle.

Beyond our own immediate family, there are so many other people, so many families and so many children who will be negatively (and possibly irreversibly) affected by this mine. So many people, neighbours and friends have felt forced to leave homes that they thought they would grow old in. And so many more will do the same should the mine go ahead. The beautiful closeknit Lue community will be forever negatively altered.

As a lasting point, I am voicing my concern for the extensive environmental impacts of this mine, should it go ahead. Alongside thriving populations of platypus, turtles, many birds and other wildlife, including koalas, call this place home. The area provides vital habitat for these creatures. Please also take this into consideration. The approval of this mine will mean approval for the clearing of 139.59 ha of known core Koala habit. Furthermore, it will involve the clearing of 182.27 ha of important Regent Honeyeater habitat including Box-Gum Woodland, and also the clearing of 180 ha of NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 listed Box-Gum Woodland of which 146 ha meets the legal classification of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) critically endangered 'Box-Gum Woodland'. Fragmentation and degradation of remaining Box-Gum Woodland. This mine as it's environmental impacts will negatively affect at least 13 threatened species that are listed in NSW as 'ecosystem credit' specie. It will also impact at least six threatened species that are listed in NSW as 'species credit' species. It will also mean the accumulation of cyanide-bearing waste in the Tailings Storage Facility posing a risk for any fauna which comes into contact with such waste, either directly in the Facility or in contaminated water that has seeped from the Facility.

We do not want this mine. We do not want our children's health to be put at risk. We do not want our rural community destroyed. We do not want to be forced off our land or out of our home. We do not want our beautiful native ecosystems destroyed.

Thank you so much for your time.

Lisa Price.