

**Submission
No 47**

**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 lyn coombe

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I am a resident of Lue 2850 in the Mid Western Regional Council locality. My property is 1.9 kms sw from the Bowdens Lead Zinc Silver project'

Over decades I have taken interest in exploration and mining projects and have witnessed repeatedly the injustice to communities and environment. The mistakes that have occurred must not continue to occur. with future projects. The governments and departments are very aware of the negative affect of mining on community and environment.

My personnel experience is with the Bowdens project..For over 25 yrs I have attempted to communicate with govt depts..This has been stressful and difficult and prolonged due to

the changes in govt local members,DPE project planners and owners of project. Many community members will not engage with govt depts as they feel it is a done deal and that they are powerless.

I am informed by Bowdens that the effect to my property and myself will be negligible..For years I was told that my property was not in the blasting affected zone but after approval I was informed I was in zone and offered a building inspection.

The mining issues commence at the exploration licence application. There needs to be a policy stating where exploration activities can not occur i.e close proximity to towns and villages eg Lue Bowdens project and areas of environmental significance eg Lake Cowal gold mine. Lake Cowal is of national and international importance for native and migratory birds. and without mining would qualify for the Ramsar convention. A policy would make it clear to community and companies that exploration would not be granted.

Consideration must be given before approval of the effect of project expansion to community and environment.

Buffer zones have been replaced by Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy..This policy is not fair or equitable, it favours the proponent.it is complicated with information and statistics difficult to understand. Buffer zones need to be reinstated ..My property is not covered by VLAMP..

It strongly appears that community and their experts submissions are not considered by DPE or IPC.

Modelling for majority of projects is incorrect, DPE does not re run the modelling and they assume the information is correct. eg Tomingley gold mine..the actual noise and dust levels exceeded the modelling so every house in Tomingley required double glazing,air conditioning and water filtration. Consent conditions are based on the assumption that modelling is correct.

Conditions of consent for many projects are generic, contain insufficient safeguards. There are no consequences only modelling and mitigation. Community must have input into conditions of consent.

DPE state they have technical tools and policies to quantitatively assess all environmental elements but these favour the proponent to the detriment of rural land owners eg noise levels are assessed at 30db but the true level is much lower in rural areas.

Water sources must be one hundred percent adequate, it is not satisfactory to state that processing will be decreased when water inadequate eg Bowdens project.

Cyanide is banned in many countries for mining. At Lake Cowal cyanide leaching processing is permitted.. This is a flood plain.

The Biodiversity Offset scheme is a failure. Both the state and federal govts acknowledge the species extinction crisis. So there must be a better scheme. On the 30th of August 2022 the NSW Attorney General released a highly critical report on offsets. It states that offsets and DPE and offsets are driving extinction of species.

Economical gain must not be placed ahead of health and community.. Bowdens have offered blood testing to the residents of Lue. Once a heavy metal is detected the damage has occurred. Criteria for lead toxicity are based on blood levels as standard but the biological half life of lead in blood is approx 36 days, so blood levels are an indicator only of recent exposure.

In Australia there are no examples of a modern major open cut mine completing rehabilitation to the point where site can be relinquished.

The question is who will manage these toxic sites in perpetuity.

I acknowledge the need to move away from coal and gas, but in our rush great precaution has to be taken on sites chosen for mining. We can not continue to have demise of community and environment due to mining.

Without a healthy community and environment we will not have a healthy economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.