

Submission  
No 52

**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:** Mr Phillip Cameron

**Date Received:** 3 September 2023

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**Phil Cameron**

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023**

## **Background**

I am a direct neighbour with shared fence line of the approved Bowden Silver Mine in Lue NSW. Our farmhouse and dependable Lawson Creek are 1 kilometre from the planned tailings dam. My wife and I have owned and lived on and off our property 'Wyuna' for the last 26 years. We have approximately 1.5km of unspoilt Lawson Creek frontage that we rely on for life stock and water supply. I have been planning to retire permanently to our property in the next 2 years. My wife lives their part week. This is now in jeopardy through no fault of ours as we cannot co-exist with a neighbouring lead and zinc producing open cut mine. Over the 26 years our farm has been used for stock, our family and currently 3 rescued horses, growing oats, and a very successful short stay business. We have witnessed extensive flooding into Lawson Creek and been through the long drought impacting the water supply.

## **My concerns**

I have extreme concerns of the changing environmental conditions with recent flooding, climate change and the stated leaking of the tailings dam. This would directly impact our property and the Lawson Creek that would be forever poisoned and polluted. We need fresh clean non polluted water to continue servicing the many farms and people that depend on the Lawson Creek.

The tailings dam with millions of tonnes of mining by-products contaminated with highly toxic pollutants such as cyanide, arsenic, caustic soda, copper as well as lead and zinc which is not captured in the mine processing.

The real and significant health, social, environment and economic risks for myself, my family, our local and wider communities is extremely stressful.

## **NSW DPE / IPC process**

I am very concerned that the NSW DPE and IPC process ignored the long-term environmental, health, social and community impact over prioritising the relative short-term gain of the unproven mining economic benefit.

The Mudgee IPC inquiry appeared a tick boxing exercise and when you think they are funded and selected by the NSW Government. No wonder nearly all the NSW DPE projects are rubber stamped by the IPC.

At the inquiry I was concerned and frustrated when I observed the rhetorical statements made by NSW DPE that dismissed all the local environmental, health, social, tourism and community experts and concerns in favour of the planned mine - playing down and basically ignoring the environmental, health and social impacts as immaterial.

## **Conclusion**

The approved Bowden's Silver Mine in Lue near Mudgee should be cancelled based on the ignored environmental, health and social impacts.

The toxic Bowden's lead and zinc mine is less than 1k from our farmhouse and 2k from the local primary school and town community. I believe Bowden's have not demonstrated that they have the experience to construct and maintain a highly toxic tailings dam.

How was this allowed and approved in the first place shows to me the failings of the DPE and IPC process and the short sightedness of the decision makers to just push it through.

I urge the inquiry to;

1. Cancel Bowden's silver, lead, and zinc mine as the NSW DPE & IPC approval process appeared biased and rushed through, and
2. Stop all future mine approvals until a true, fair, accountable, responsible, and genuine independent process is created

Regards

Phil Cameron