

**Submission  
No 59**

**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**

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My name is Bill Brown, and I wish to address some of the terms of reference.

You cannot balance the positive and negative impacts of heavy metals and critical minerals mining on local communities, economies and the environment without firstly obtaining baseline data.

This data needs to be obtained before the exploration companies purchase land and turn owner occupier homes into rental houses. The local economy needs to have a baseline as to what is happening before the mining starts. Figures on tourism, agriculture, horticulture etc.

The self monitoring of mining companies to determine health and environmental damage is not good enough.

2023 best practice for heavy metals mining and critical minerals mining is not enough to ensure communities and the environment will not be impacted by the mining activities.

The maximum fine the EPA can issue is a joke, and needs to be adjusted.

Social issues such as housing availability and rental price needs to be balanced. You need baseline data on this before exploration turns into mining.

A politician was quoted to say "if there is a resource...we will dig it up". This attitude makes the whole approval process to seem predetermined, and community feels that they are powerless. Attitudes need to change.

Shareholders will determine whether zinc, silver or lead is worth mining. Government can determine where, and built up areas in the central west of NSW are not suitable due to adverse effects on health, land, air and water.

I manage a landscape which is within 10km from an approved lead, silver and zinc mine. I cannot see how heavy metal mining can coexist with agriculture.

I live and work down wind and upstream from a proposed lead mine. My way of life has already been impacted. I now have had my blood lead level tested, what will happen to my animals health and the markets that will be impacted by contaminated meat and wool.

I will not be able to drink my tank water and my creek will be drained. These types of mines need to use a lot of water, even when they have packed up and gone, the toxic tailings dam and void need to be managed. Who will be liable for the toxic issues associated with these style of mines when the company has left.

Once a mine like Bowdens are proposing starts, there is no turning back. One generations greed will affect hundreds of generations after. Who has the right to make that decision. The best place for acid forming rock is in the ground.

Rehabilitation of the mine site with this type of mine is not possible, so they should not be allowed in NSW