

Submission
No 97

**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: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

As a resident of Mudgee, I am 100% opposed to the further development of the Bowden Silver Mine in Lue. As we now understand the silver component is an insignificant portion of the actual mine extraction with the two major contributories being Lead and Zinc.

There is plenty of data on the long term and major health effect of lead exposure that will not only compromise the local residents of Lue, but the surrounding villages and towns as well.

Bowden's Mine life span is estimated at 16 years, which is short term in the scheme of things but would leave long-term devastation for future generations with the acid mine drainage system that is unproven and inadequate.

They will boost employment in the area for the duration of the mine, however there are already 100's of job in the region that can't already be filled, from hospitality, coal mines and council heavily recruiting.

It has been documented that Lead traces have been found in the Antarctic that originated from Port Pirie in South Australia. Lead dust will travel and affect the surrounding agricultural farming lands of this region, that will in turn diminish not only the land values but the products it produces such as wine, olives, cherries, beef and sheep that are at the economic heart of this region.

With potential water ingress from the toxic tailings dam (that lies on a fault line) would be irreversible and devastating to the area with the flow from Lawson Creek eventually finding its way to Burrendong Dam (that supports recreational activities not only for Mudgee, Wellington and surrounds district). This cannot be ruled out given the significant rain and flooding events as seen in this region in 2022.

Mudgee's first grapes went in in the 1850's and with a rich history and passionate producers who have built an industry and reputation that has seen the town of Mudgee named Top Tourist Town 2 years running.

The further development of this mine will see a significant decline in the tourist visitation as people will not want to travel to an area where they could suffer potential health risks to the exposure of Lead or eat and drink locally produced products that have been diminished by such contamination.

Bowden's have secured support for this venture within the community by the sponsorship of sporting teams and clubs but in return have asked that the parents post a submission in support of this mine. I personally feel many of these submissions have thwarted the process as consultation and understanding of the potential harmful effects of Lead exposure as some critical information has not been passed on to these unsuspecting parents.