

**Submission  
No 107**

**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 Lara Altimira  
**Date Received:** 4 September 2023

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My name is Lara Altimira and I live in Lue, NSW where the Bowdens Silver Project has been approved. My house is 2 kilometres from the mine site. I am making this submission to express my concern about the unacceptable risks to public health and the environment that this mine poses, rehabilitation practices and ongoing issues.

I am addressing the terms of reference:

a) the impact on the health of local residents

I am concerned that the dust from the mine which is mainly lead will impact our house, water tank and garden. We rely on rainwater for drinking and all our household needs. We also access groundwater through a bore for our garden. Through our daily activities around our house we will then be exposed to dangerous levels of lead. Lead is harmful to humans and I have a young child who I do not want to be exposed to the harmful effects of lead. I don't think the DPE approved this mine with full consideration of the people who will be impacted. Bowdens environmental impact statement was inaccurate. The data Bowdens used in it's project proposal underestimated community exposure to levels of lead. It ignored concentrate, mine ore materials or tailings as potential sources of lead dust. One of the consent conditions of the mine was to offer blood lead level testing. Watching a child be subjected to blood testing is extremely distressing. We should not have to have our blood lead levels monitored to safely live in our community.

b) the impacts on waterways and rainwater tanks

The amount of water available for mining in Lue has been overestimated in the assessments Bowdens used to support their approval process. The Bowdens Silver mine plans to use roughly 5 megalitres of water every day. They are proposing to get all the water needed from Lue, either through building dams, using water caught and drawn into the open cut pit, taking water from the Lawson Creek or using water from the tailings dam. However there is not enough water in Lawson creek to supply the mine. The DPE have not looked at factual rain records and Lawson creek flow records in their assessment to approve this mine. If they take the proposed amount of water from Lawson Creek, the creek will become dry. All wildlife and vegetation at use the creek will be put at risk.

(f) the effectiveness of current decommissioning and rehabilitation practices in safeguarding human health and the environment

The mine site in Lue will never be rehabilitated. This is not possible due to this type of mining. So there will always be a tailings dam and a risk of acid mine drainage. Why should locals be subjected to this risk. Why weren't we given the option to be compensated to be able to move away from this area. We are left with reduced property prices and living in a place with ongoing health risks.