

**Submission
No 166**

**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: Dr Peter Bentivoglio

Date Received: 5 September 2023

Portfolio Committee No 2 – Dr Peter Bentivoglio 2023 IPC Submission

Portfolio Committee No. 2 inquire into and report on current and future impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, land, air and water quality in New South Wales,

Submitted by: Dr Peter Bentivoglio

Date: 5 September 2023

Summary

This submission is for:

Dr Peter Bentivoglio – IPC 2023 Submission paper

We challenge the current process and regulatory framework for reviewing and approving applications for underground and open cut mining in NSW.

- a. **The impact on the health of local residents and mine workers, including through biomagnification and bioaccumulation**
- b. **The adequacy of the response and any compliance action taken by the regulatory authorities in response to complaints and concerns from communities affected by mining activities,**
- c. **The effectiveness of the current regulatory framework in terms of monitoring, compliance, risk management and harm reduction from mining activities,**

Recommendations

Suspend the Independent Planning Commission's (IPC) approval of Bowden Silver Mine at Lue until the outcome of this Parliamentary Inquiry is available, to determine whether the current approval process and regulatory framework for heavy metals mining is putting the health and economy of communities in Central Western NSW at risk.

Note the metal to be extracted from the proposed Bowden Silver Mine is estimated to comprise 47% lead, 52% zinc and less than 1% silver.

Note as specified by WHO (World Health Organisation) there is no safe level of (Pb) Lead exposure for humans.

Note approval of a new mine without comprehensive draft Management Plans available for review to confirm the potential risks can be managed, exacerbates the risks to the health of the community.

Note Although Cadia Gold Mine near Orange is managed by an experienced mining company there have been numerous breaches over the operating mine years in relation to toxic air quality and excessive trace element mineral levels in blood levels of local residents (including children).

The management plans in this instance appear to have failed, therefore it is baffling that the IPC would approve Bowden's Mine without sighting any Management Plans.

Review the independent reports submitted by Mudgee Regional Action Group, Professor Mark Taylor and any other submission relating to the IPC and relating to Bowden Silver Mine.

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These reports detail the risks to human health, land, soil, air and water quality on our region and our olive groves, grape vineyards and our business in the Mudgee region should Bowden Silver Mine proceed.

Executive Summary

1. The commissioners were invited to review our olive oil processing plant and olive grove at Monivae 5km from Bowdens mine, however, they rejected this invitation.
2. I do not believe the Commissioners have any insight into the production and processing of extra virgin olive oil and the effects of lead dust and heavy metal dust will have on our 26 year old olive grove.
Note: CO2 consumption of the olive trees in helping climate change.
3. No care or financial responsibility has been accepted by the Bowden's Mine nor the IPC.
4. Culpability for the negative impacts on the health of the exposed cohort and the agricultural and commercial business enterprises affected by the mine must be introduced.
5. Small dust particles PM 2.5 travel further and are more medically dangerous to humans, animals and wildlife.

Attached

1. Dr Peter Bentivoglio – IPC Submission February 2023
2. Prof Mark Taylor – Lue report
3. Prof Mark Taylor – Rylstone Olive Press Report