

**Submission
No 136**

**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: Garry I Martin

Date Received: 5 September 2023

Dear Portfolio Committee No. 2,

Thank you for this opportunity to email my submission to your committee.

My name is Garry. As the father of a daughter and grandfather to two school aged grandchildren I am lodging this submission under term of reference A. I feel that gold, silver, lead and zinc mining is and will continue to impact the health of children and residents of New South Wales. Vulnerable citizens such as my child and grandchildren are innocent victims being exposed unwillingly to the effluents of these types of mines.

In this instance I would like to refer to the Bowdens Silver Pty Ltd mine which has been approved near Lue, NSW and how it will impact it's environment.

Bowdens is slated as a silver mine, but the company's own projected ore volumes show 50 times more lead than silver will be produced over the life of the mine. This is, in fact, a lead mine. Lead is a very dangerous metal. Even very low levels of exposure to the metal can have lifelong effects on multiple organs including the cardiovascular system. It is particularly dangerous for children.

Chronic exposure to lead can lead to the following effects on the populations of Lue, Mudgee and surrounds:

1. Decreased academic achievement, IQ and specific cognitive measures in children.
2. Delayed puberty and decreased kidney function in children over 12 years of age.
3. Increased blood pressure, decreased cognitive function.
4. Reduced foetal growth, increases in spontaneous abortion and preterm birth.

The data Bowdens uses in it's project proposal underestimates community exposure levels of lead. It ignores concentrate, mine ore materials or tailings as potential sources of lead dust and fails to analyse the effect of peak wind events. This is also of great concern for those living in Lue, young children attending the Lue primary school located two kilometres from the mine and agricultural producers who rely on clean air and contaminant-free water to produce sellable products.

As far as the health of my child and grandchildren is concerned the only safe place for lead anywhere in New South Wales is in the ground, untouched. Lead exposure carries heavy health, financial and economic risks to local residents, mine workers and people of the state.

Lead mining must be discontinued in New South Wales and the Bowdens Silver mine must be scrapped.

I give my permission for my submission to be made public.
I do not wish to give evidence at a hearing.

Garry I. Martin