

Supplementary  
Submission  
No 166a

**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

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Partially  
Confidential

## Portfolio Committee No 2 – Dr Peter Bentivoglio 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 – Health Summary Concerns**

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 Bruce Brew, Dr Peter Bentivoglio, Professor Mark Taylor,

## Portfolio Committee No 2 – Dr Peter Bentivoglio Submission

and any other submission relating to the IPC and relating to Bowden Silver Mine.

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

The statement that no health impact will result, from Bowden's Lead, Zinc, Silver Mine, has to be tested by:

1. Independent Baseline Blood lead and other heavy metals performed yearly, to detect blood level increases without associated symptoms, so early and effective treatment can be instituted before irreversible damage develops. E.g. Cognitive impairment in children and adults and the effects on renal function.
2. Independent Neuropsychometric studies as a base line and follow up review studies to detect early cognitive impairment. See attached quote from  
Neuropsychologist.
3. Independent real time dust monitoring at multiple areas up 1km 15 km from the mine site.
4. Independent isotope studies of the lead ore from Bowden's Mine to determine the source of contaminated dust deposits.
5. Independent and constant monitoring of all tank water used for drinking, stock and domestic, irrigation and food processing every 6 months.
6. All costs must be met by Bowden's Mine who are impacting on the exposed cohort and are the cause of the need for careful and meticulous monitoring.
7. Responsibility for failure to maintain a healthy environment for the exposed cohort around the Bowden's Mine should result in significant fines and culpability.
8. Bowden's and the Department of Planning must take full responsibility for their actions in recommending and approving a toxic contamination to impact the health of people and their environment.

### Dr Peter Bentivoglio

#### Attachment

- 1 Dr Peter Bentivoglio EIS Objection Submission July 2020
2. Prof Bruce Brew February 2023 report to IPC
3. Neuropsychometric baseline assessment Quote
4. Prof Mark Taylor Rylstone Olive Press report May 2020
5. Prof Mark Taylor Lue Report Potential Lead exposure May 2020
6. Dr P Bentivoglio – Minister Park Letter 19 May 2023
7. Dr P Bentivoglio – Minister Park Letter 27 May 2023
8. – Dr Bentivoglio Letter 14 August 2023