

Submission
No 154

**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**

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Partially
Confidential

A single person should not hold office if they ignore the Health Impacts and the Environmental damage, that a mine like Bowden's will cause if given approval. Accountability is called for.

Economics should never come at the cost of Human Health and the Environment.

We are partners and custodians with the land. We work together with the land and its whole, we are not an authority over the land. We don't extract, we collaboratively work together. We need each other, we are part of Nature. "While Australia has relied on extraction to get us this far, we are now at a tipping point" (Professor Annie Clarke, University of Sydney, Archaeology and Heritage Studies). Australia has the unenviable record of leading the world in species and biodiversity loss, including the highest rate of extinctions in the modern world (Medical Journal of Australia/Volume 218, Issue 8/p 336-340).

This inquiry demands immediate attention, as Mineral Mines are being approved by the NSW Government in greenfield areas without taking into any consideration to the Land of Mother Nature.

It is a violation by the NSW Government not to protect the future generations in this community.

It's a _____ from the DPE and IPC to dismiss the Health Impacts of cumulative Lead Exposure to our community and environment.

I no longer have confidence in our government's policy and regulatory authorities.

- The residents of Cadia and surrounds have paid the ultimate price for these inadequacies, and unfortunately, they are not the first.
- Clearly the current policy which allowed for the Bowden's mine approval is inadequate.
- This approval needs to be revoked until the policy is fit for purpose. If this inquiry is to be meaningful, then recall the recent approvals and submit them to a policy that is appropriate to a first world country in 2023.
- Cadia – 3 years to admit there is a problem.
- 3 years for the EPA to investigate water contamination and dust pollution.
- Boggabri Coal Mine – 5 years water theft.
- Tarago Rail – 5 years failure to notify the residence of Lead Contamination.

And The Response Is:

"We dropped the ball "

Is this how the NSW Government regulations and mining companies "Minimize Risk?"

Exactly how does government policy discount people and human health? Cadia is a perfect example: residents have tested positive with heavy metals contamination, some living as far away as 18km.

These consequences cannot be undone.

The DPE and IPC has given insufficient attention to the presented scientific evidence of The Bowdens Project.

They have completely ignored the potential, almost certain, harm to human life and the catastrophic environmental damage to the Lawson Creek, the Wildlife and the Biodiversity of life in our country.

Let's not dismiss the health of this Earth and Animals and how this will impact the health of future generations.

- The Community have the right to live in a safe and healthy environment.
- The Community have the right to drink clean water.
- The Community have the right to breath clean air.
- Every human being deserves to breath clean air regardless.

Having a heavy metal mine, with insufficient water, dumped in the middle of a community to be exposed to heavy metals over a lifetime, will come at a cost to all human health and to the environment. **Our health system cannot afford this.** Our community should not be asked to "learn how to live with lead" for the economic benefit of investors or government royalties.

There has been no consideration to our community, inadequate and insufficient community consultation.

- Over 20 infant and primary children living within the 10 km zone of this mine and several hundred children living in the Rylstone Kandos community.
- Children are attending school, 5 days a week, 6 hours per day, 2 km from the mine site.
- There will never be enough procedures that will protect the lungs of the future generations from a heavy metal mine.
- The effects of lead poisoning are irreversible.
- Lead is extremely toxic,
- There is No safe blood levels of lead exposure in children, no safe blood levels have been identified as safe.
- Our government or Bowden's have No Right to take away a childhood's finest moments.
- The precious moments of children is the most beautiful of all life, mud on the face of a child, dirt in their hair and on their hands – free of Lead and heavy metals

Thirteen Management plans have been concealed from the community, but approval has been given by the NSW government.

This is unacceptable in 2023

Trees are the lungs of this earth, and our children are the most precious resource.

How does our government value our children or do they just look the other way?

The decision-makers live far from this mine and so do their children.

A dark future for our children living in this community.

Where's the accountability?