

Submission
No 160

**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: Miss Bethany Ellis

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Partially
Confidential

My submission is for the Parliamentary Inquiry on:

The current and potential impacts of silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, land, air and water quality in New South Wales.

My Name is Bethany Ellis and I Object to the proposed Lead, Zinc and Silver Mine located Near the township of Lue NSW.

Along with my partner and two young children, we live and work in the Mudgee area, approximately 20 km from the township of Lue. My partners family have farmed the valley 7 km north east of Lue for 6 generations. I would like to think that my children (7th generation) could continue to do so thrive from agriculture. More importantly however is that they can achieve this without threat to their own health and the health of their land and livestock.

The reasons I object to the mine:

1. Bowden's Mine does not align with the region's identity.

The Mudgee region (which includes Lue) is known for its tranquility and beauty in the natural landscape. Its fertile soils, bubbling creeks and rolling hills makes for perfect conditions for agriculture including an abundance of vineyards, orchards, livestock and crop production. It is these very reasons that the Mudgee region attracts many tourists. 457 HA is proposed to be cleared. I can't help but imagine how un aesthetically appealing this sight will be. Winning the most popular tourism town in 2 consecutive years, tourists come to the region to escape the noise and pollutants of city life and in turn give back to our community by supporting local businesses. Bowden's LEAD, ZINC and Silver Mine is in the wrong district. Pollutants, dust, toxic waste and noise which will be produced by the mine DOES NOT favor an environment to create tourism.

2. Traffic Hazard

I see the increased traffic from the mine a safety hazard from Lue to Mudgee. These roads are not suited to heavy machinery. There is no doubt that with this mine will come the daily transport of trucks carrying explosives and other toxic chemicals. The heavy vehicles in town also raise safety risks due to the heavy vehicle route being close to schools.

3. Health Hazard

I believe the risks to human health have not been properly assessed and consider this a serious concern. It has been firmly established that lead is a highly toxic metal. The toxic levels of lead that will be prevalent in dust particles and in the water is too detrimental to the health of the locals in the community. In addition, Lue sits at top of the catchment. The water quality raises concern not only for the people but also for the many farms that rely on this water for agricultural practices. What frightens me the most is that Our drinking water stands to be compromised by airborne lead. Do we really want to wait and see what the severity of those impacts are on our population, in particular our children??? As stated by many health professionals; there is a direct link between communities in mining areas and health issues. Pollutants aside, another concerning issue is stress and anxiety, often associated with the sheer exposure of the day-to-day activities of the mine, the noise and

dust. The mine is situated 2 KM from Lue.... THIS IS TOO CLOSE. This tells me that Bowden's is only worried about making money rather than worried about people's lives.

4. Water Concerns

The Lawson Creek is a lifeline for all producers up and down stream. In addition, it creates a habitat for hundreds of species of flora and fauna. Water is a precious resource and my fear is that Bowden's requirement for water is too great. It is NOT a viable solution for a mine of its size to rely on the Lawson creek. The leaching of toxic waste into the waterways will also have detrimental effects on not only the people in the community but also the flora and fauna that relies upon it.

5. Aboriginal Artifact.

I, along with many residents in the district feel proud to call this area our home. The region is steeped in Aboriginal history. It is clear as to why the Aboriginals chose to settle in this region, due to its abundance of flora and fauna, hidden amongst a poetic landscape of rolling hills, rocky ridges and creeks and tributaries. To destroy over 50% of the Aboriginal artifacts on the mine site for a mine that is short lived can only be described as DISGUSTING.

The reasons stated above as to why i object to the mine are only a portion of the concerns that the Bowden's mine will have on the community and environment of Lue and its surrounding region. Bowden's own predicted ore volumes show 50 times more that than silver? Any amount of lead exposure is harmful. We need to protect our people to ensure a thriving future for generations to come. Our Children are the 7th generation to have the opportunity to farm on How devastating will the impacts be for them and the generations to come if this mine goes ahead?

I thank you for your time.

Bethany Ellis