

**Submission  
No 161**

**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:** Mr Allan Leonard

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## Background

I, with my family, have several enterprises at Lue and Rylstone. One of these is a premium Angus Beef Cattle Operation.

## Concerns

From the Terms of Reference:

1. (c) the impact on land and soil, crops, and livestock, including through biomagnification and bioaccumulation

*The Department Planning and Environment clearly demonstrates, in the approval of Bowden's silver Mine, that it completely disregards the community concerns for health, food safety and drinking water, as well as livelihoods in agriculture in this region.*

The focus of my Beef Cattle enterprise is to supply premium cattle to the market, while also building the fertility of the soil on our farm. High quality fertile soil is the cornerstone to improving and turning around our current climate crisis. We are extensively researching soil health and applying regenerative farming practices to improve the footprint we leave on the earth.

We are selecting multi species grasses and plants with varying root depths accompanied with natural fertilisers to build the soil health, maximize water retention and to extract the highest level of carbon from the atmosphere.

I have also allocated shelter belts that are set aside for native birds and wildlife.

We are partners and custodians of the land, and we work together with the land and its whole, we are not an authority over the land. We must work collaboratively together; we need each other, as we are part of nature.

My cattle are on a strict rotation so that their impact mimics nature, allowing regeneration of the land

I have invested heavily in some of the best genetics the world has to offer to produce high quality commercial breeding cattle. We ensure that our cattle are grass fed and are helping to reduce the carbon footprint.

Lead contamination will destroy my cattle breeding program. It will devalue not only my cattle but my entire property.

We must sign a National Declaration form when selling cattle, that they free of contamination. We are declaring our farm practices meet the LPA Requirements. This form must be backed up with accurate farm records, showing the cattle meets all requirements that the meat has been produced safely, ethically and meets the biosecurity standards. A lead mine in proximity, will put this at serious threat and significantly devalue the agricultural industry in this region which currently contributes approx. \$14million to the local economy.

There is no denying that Bowden's or any other Mineral/Metal can extract from this land without catastrophic consequences. I take my responsibility as the caretaker of this land very seriously. We cannot keep taking from mother nature and destroying the biodiverse ecosystems.

Our government wants to move to clean/green mining practices. These proposed mining developments are not improving our current climate crisis. The current system is broken

The governments policy is set up to merely tick boxes in favour of mining approvals. The current procedures are reckless and are in urgent need for reform.

Laws are not being applied to protect our agricultural farms and the health of our animals. What is the point of transitioning to clean energy if we are destroying a whole other industry in the process and leaving a toxic legacy.

***Our Property Sevenoaks is also an authentic farm stay located 10 km from the proposed Siver Mine.***

Our city friends leave the hustle and bustle to retreat to the charming country to disconnect from the busy world. Our farm stay is surrounded by unspoiled picturesque landscapes.

The guest enjoys the farm stay for its natural beauty of mother nature, the wildlife and the silence of remote country life, this life is one that is not disturbed by noise from industry, recreation or traffic.

The world shut down through covid, but once the gates were open our tourism exploded. Our beautiful region had been discovered and loved for the natural beauty and the local produce, restaurants cafes and boutique shopping.

Tourism has certainly brought the region to life.

Next door to Sevenoaks farm stay is at least another twenty-five flourishing farm stays and more opening all the time.

The farm stays are operated by the local farmers, we all welcomed the tourism as it was an opportunity to create a small return after the worst drought in Australian history. The Bowden's report to the IPC had failed to acknowledge the important contribution that the accommodation and hospitality had contributed to the local economy.

We live and eat of the Land, in this Lue region we have a global award-winning Olive Oil, organic wines, The First of September and its annual Mudgee food and wine month, attracting thousands of people to our region.

It's the food that keeps the soul of this region alive.

The Mudgee Region attracts over 691,000 visitors each year, while these visitors take the scenic drive through Kandos Rylstone Lue to Mudgee and Gulgong they absorb the organic views,

It's called Wiradjuri Country.

The beautiful scenery and its environment across our spectacular countryside of Lue will be spoilt forever.

The Risk of Bowden's Mine has totally been ignored. The risk of acid mine drainage poisoning the Lawson Creek and heavy metal exposure to this earth will scare not only human health our environment but will destroy the tourism life.

The impacts of a Silver Lead and Zinc mine will be seen from the roadside views. Spoiling the scenic drive between Rylstone and Mudgee, smothering our homes and their once picturesque homes.

We need to protect and enhance our natural environment; this enquiry may give us the chance to do just that. By really delving into the catastrophic consequence of mineral and metal mining in NSW.