

**Submission  
No 176**

**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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## **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.**

My name is Roberta Jill White and object to the proposed Bowdens Silver Project due to the impacts such a project will have on our health, land, and water quality the Lue and Mudgee region. I live 10 kilometers from Lue with my husband and two children. We are involved in primary production on our property of which both the Bara and Lawson creek run.

The reasons I object to the mine:

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

The Mudgee region is a leading tourist destination in Australia. A mine such as Bowdens will not align with this due to the large amounts of dust, noise and toxic waste produced. The Bowdens project will negatively impact our stunning landscape for many years.

2. Traffic Hazard

Bowdens Silver Project, is attempting to mine and transport heavy metals. Exposure to these heavy metals is known to cause either early in life or at any stage of development negative pathophysiological outcomes. Exposure to lead due to potential road and traffic accidents is a very possibly reality of this project. Furthermore, increased traffic and traffic hazards will have significant negative impacts to residents along the Lue road as well as the Mudgee township. These roads are single lane, unmarked roads and are not well equipped to handle such demand the heavy vehicles associated with Bowdens project would require.

3. Health Hazard

I have been qualified as registered nurse for past 8 years. During this time, I have worked within many health care sectors and have extensive knowledge of pathophysiological process of injury and disease. I am concerned of the health impacts on the Lue and Mudgee residents from accidental and inadvertent exposure to lead – a known carcinogenic which is capable of inducing tumour formation (Nowak & Handford, 2014, p.160). Khalid & Abdollahi (2019, p. 235) state that lead exposure during different stages of development has demonstrated dose, duration, sex and tissue-specific pathophysiological outcomes due to altered epigenetic regulation. Furthermore, lead-induced alteration of epigenetic regulation causes neurotoxic and extra-neurotoxic pathophysiological outcomes; such as dysfunction of memory and learning, behavioural disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum disorder, aging, alzheimier's disease, neurodegeneration altered body weight, metabolic disorder, cardiovascular disorders, hematopoietic disorder, and reproductive impairment (Khalid & Abdollahi, 2019, p. 235).

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. I believe Bowdens has not adequately addressed the necessary water usage needed for lead dust suppression during dry weather events. Where is it going to obtain this water? Many of these creeks cease to run in dry periods, 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.

To destroy Aboriginal artifacts on the mine site for this project is unnecessary and disrespectful to First Nations People and the history of Australia.

We must not allow these privatized companies to destroy the land, air and water of Lue and its surrounds, when they are not going to be here left to live with resulting devastation for many years to come. Please do not let this Mine continue any further.

Roberta White