

**Submission  
No 44**

**INQUIRY INTO PLANNING SYSTEM AND THE IMPACTS  
OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
COMMUNITIES**

**Name:** Mr Philip Carkagis

**Date Received:** 2 November 2023

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Dear Ms Higginson and Committee Members.

My name is Philip Carkagis and I am writing to voice my strong disagreement with the previous IPC process into the Bowdens mine determination.

My wife and I live on a property approximately three kilometres from the Bowdens Silver site. We have owned our property for over twenty years and have established a very successful and highly regarded olive oil business on site.

Despite general assurances from Bowdens management to the contrary, the establishment of the mine will irretrievably damage our business. Airborne contamination from heavy metals will pollute the soil and our olive trees and render our drinking water from house tanks unusable.

The time frame given for the preparation of public EIS submissions was very short making it difficult for the community to adequately prepare submissions using expert opinion.

During the public submission days that the IPC held in Mudgee during February 2023, there were many concerned speakers from the community who voiced their alarm, dismay and opposition to the establishment of the mine in such an unspoiled area. Evidence from environmental experts was presented in answer to the EIS showing serious negative health and environmental outcomes in established areas where heavy metals were mined and how the areas surrounding Bowdens would be damaged.

The IPC consultative process appeared to ignore any expert opinion that was detrimental to the establishment of the mine.

The establishment of the Bowdens Silver mine was approved by the IPC with no restrictions to address any of the community concerns. The IPC made no attempt to address the submissions from environmental experts who described the impacts of heavy metal mining on other Australian communities, the poor health outcomes in those communities and what this would mean for the Lue and Mudgee areas.

It would seem that the decision to allow the operation of the mine was a foregone conclusion prior to the public consultative process and any negative responses to the establishment of the mine were ignored.

The EPA also has been silent during this process and has made no comment on the submissions from environmental experts who described the impacts of heavy metal mining on other Australian communities, the poor health outcomes in those communities and what this would mean for the Lue and Mudgee areas.

Recent investigations around the Cadia gold mine site near Orange, NSW have shown that heavy metal mining impacts both the local community and the land that sustains the community.

There is no safe lead limit for human exposure, but the IPC approval, as requested by Bowdens, will allow the mine to contaminate the land, waterways and inhabitants 24 hours per day, every day of the year. This must not be allowed to happen with what will be a largely unchecked and unregulated Bowdens Silver operation.

I believe that the decision to allow Bowdens Silver to establish a mine at Lue must be revisited.

Respectfully yours,

Philip Carkagis