

**Submission
No 97**

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

Name: Mrs Sarah Inglis
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Inquiry into the planning system and the impacts of climate change on the environment and communities

I am a farmer 5 kms downstream on Lawsons Creek from recently approved Bowdens Silver Mine (IPC April 2023).

My family and I have found the whole NSW Planning process a traumatic experience. For the past 30 or so years, we have fought to protect our region from no less than four companies, most recently Silver Mines Ltd. NSW Planning law favours the proponent to the detriment of the community in which the mine is located.

I commend the Inquiry as there is an urgency to address planning law and its ability to protect from the consequences of climate change. I attach my earlier submission to the Independent Planning Commission hearing into Bowdens Silver Mine.

IN 2022 Paul Toole Minister for Resources and Regional NSW in the Coalition Government said, "The Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Strategy delivers a clear vision to provide a key source of economic growth, help diversify the NSW royalty base and provide the materials necessary for a low carbon future." Government policy favours metals mining.

Are silver and lead critical minerals necessary for a low carbon future? No! Are they rare? No! Can they be found elsewhere? Yes! Can they be found away from populated areas where there are no existing viable and sustainable industries? Yes! Can tourism and agriculture and primary coexist with a lead mine within 2 kms? No! Does the Lawson Creek valley have viable and sustainable tourist and agriculture businesses that will be destroyed by this mine? Yes!

The approval of a lead silver and zinc mine at Lue early this year in the caretaker period prior to the March election is wrong. Despite strong community objections and scientific evidence which said this mine would threaten water quality, destroy koala habitat, contaminate crops and livestock, devastate the thriving local tourism industry, poison nearby residents including a primary school this mine was approved by the Independent Planning Commission.

Bowdens Silver Mine not only has not demonstrated it has enough water to operate safely to suppress lead dust, it will take water from all downstream water users and also pollute the aquifer and Lawsons Creek allowing **1.6 megalitres of contaminated water to seep into it each and every day**. NSW Planning law has knowingly destroyed this valley.

The ultimate injustice to our community is that we have no right of appeal on merit to the Land and Environment Court. This is unjust and must be changed.