

Submission: Bowden's Silver Project

My name is Anne Christie, I have grown up in the Lue region as the third generation on a family property 8kms from the proposed mine. I appreciate the opportunity to make a submission in regards to the Bowden's Silver Project. I oppose the Bowden's silver project and have strong concerns about the following:

Unacceptable health impacts:

As a Dietitian, I am aware of the detrimental health effects that will come from the mine. Lead levels are high in the application area. Lead analysis for the application area demonstrated high bio-accessibility rates. This means increased absorption of lead into the body. There is no safe level of lead. Toxic effects are evident at less than 5ug/gL and have lifelong effects on multiple organs including cardiovascular system.

Dust is the primary pollutant from the mine which is considerably concerning as the mine will be 1.9km away from the village of Lue and the public school. All residents within the village, surrounds and the local public school rely on water tanks for drinking water. The air pollution will contaminate the drinking water, and this is a route of exposure that could put larger segments of the population at risk of lead exposure (Leff et al. 2018). Exposure to lead has been highly researched to date. The health implications can cause prenatal effects in the growth and development of child, to long lasting decline of multiple organs leading to death. Chronic disease of the neurological and cardiovascular systems are known causes of lead exposure. However, on researching I have found that there are links to kidney function. Tsaih et al. observed a correlation between specific parameters of kidney function and lead levels in blood and bone, and that this effect was stronger in patients with diabetes and hypertension. A similar effect on kidney was seen in a study on teenagers where higher blood lead levels correlated with reduced kidney function. Therefore, exposure to lead may increase risk of renal failure.

Tourism:

I have since moved out of the Mudgee region, to work as a Dietitian in Condobolin. Condobolin is surrounded by a large number of mines and I have witnessed the effects these mines have on the landscape and therefore the tourism. I am proud to say 'I grew up within a small town within the Mudgee region' because of the beautiful landscape and country it is currently known for. I do not want this to change due to the large mine site, the increased traffic, noise pollution, blasting and vibration. Bowden's have declared there will be NO rehabilitation of the mine site. This is absolutely devastating that it can be left, destroying the beautiful landscape.