

14 July 2020

Planning & Assessment Department  
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

My submission is dated 10 July 2020.

My name is Dr Peter Bentivoglio. M.B.B.S, (Hons 11) F.R.A.C.S

My address is Rylstone Olive Press, Tarmons, 25 & 190 Mossy Rock Lane, Monivae NSW 2850.

The Applicant is Bowden Silver Pty Ltd.

The Application Number is SSD5765.

The Application is Bowden Silver Mine.

I object to Bowden Silver Mine's proposal.

I declare I have not made a reportable political donation in the previous 2 years.

**Peter Bentivoglio**

I would like my submission to be anonymous. I request that you please withhold my name, do not publish my name on your website, and remove my name from any documents that are already published on your website.

I am a retired Neurosurgeon, and I own Bentivoglio Olives and the Rylstone Olive Press, which is 4-6km from the proposed lead mine site at Monivae in the district of Lue, New South Wales. We have 8,000 trees and have recognition throughout the industry for producing some of Australia's leading olive oils, with an international reputation.

I am also a Neurosurgeon who was the past Chairman of Neurosurgery at St Vincents Hospital, Neurosurgery, for 16 years, and I will retire to our home at Monivae near Lue.

I have significant concerns with regards to the effects of lead and free silica dust that an open cut Silver Lead and Zinc mine with regular explosions will recreate in the area, not only from the air we breathe, but also our soft water which we drink and gather off the roofs of our houses and sheds. This water is gathered in tanks. These tanks will undoubtedly become polluted and poisoned by the lead and silica dust and other heavy metal dust particles which will be released uncontrolled by the open cut mine. This will undoubtedly result in long term exposure which can and will cause significant medical problems affecting our brain, kidney, liver, peripheral nervous system and cardio vascular system.

Many of the people, who inhabit the area, will be affected by the uncontrolled emissions, are elderly with already medically affected organs, which will be further damaged by the lead and free silica dust and pollution.

This lead and free silica dust will further affect the already partially injured organs from other diseases.

An example of this is a worsening of a diabetic nephropathy resulting in further deterioration in renal function, necessitating renal dialysis and a significant change in life and location. The effects of silica dust causing silicosis.

Undoubtedly the cognitive impairment is a well known effect of blood lead levels increasing in a person's body and chronic exposure means that the lead levels do not have to be as high to cause symptoms.

It also causes significant effect on the peripheral, motor and sensory systems of the body.

Other areas of the body it can cause major health issues are with hypertension, bone marrow function and anaemia, effects on pregnancy and of course it significantly affects children's bone and mental development and eventual level of academic achievement.

***I believe the proposed open cut mine is a health hazard to every person and animal in the area for many miles around and will prove not only a human disaster but also a significant environmental disaster.***

My biggest concerns are the medical and environmental effects lead dust will cause all the people, animal and vegetation, by poisoning us through the air we breathe and the water and food we drink and eat. For this reason, I would strongly oppose the establishment of this mine and the subsequent indiscriminate damage it will do to the area at large.

It is absolutely imperative that every person in the surrounding area and likewise, throughout Australia, is entitled and able to access clean, unpolluted air to breathe and potable water to drink and which has not been polluted by heavy metal chemicals like lead, arsenic, mercury and cyanide and free silica.

If the mine is to go ahead, the government and the planning committee has to ensure that the people of the area have the right to free fresh air to breathe without impurities and chemical toxins, and also

water to drink which they all catch off their own roofs, and also unaffected water to irrigate crops and to include all stock and domestic water requirements.

What can be done to protect the population from the lead and free silica dust that the Bowden Lead and Silver Mine at Lue will release.

1. Area must be supplied with reticulated water.
2. Tanks must be protected with water filtration
3. Costs for reticulated water and any filtration equipment should be borne by the Mining Company
4. Air to breathe in the home requires filtering to remove all dust particles
5. Costs air quality equipment should be borne by the mining company

#### Bibliography

1. Dr Peter Gray, MBBS FRACS FAOrthA, Fellow Royal Orthopaedics Association *Attached*.
2. Lead exposure and poisoning in adults, 2020 updated Rose, Goldman, Hugh, *Attached*