

I am writing to state my opposition to the Bowdens Silver Project because of the serious risk to the community from lead pollution especially in view of the close proximity of the mine- ie approximately 2 kilometres from the Lue school and township.

I understand that the mine will produce thousands of tonnes of lead, which is extremely poisonous to humans and animals when disturbed and processed. This will expose residents to a high risk of negative health impacts from lead in the air and in the water. Polluted water will also impact local agriculture and livestock.

The risk of dangerous pollution downstream is high and the proposed safeguards are insufficient as there have been recent cases of tailings dams failing.

Apart from dropping water levels and the threat that poses to local agriculture, there is also a risk of aquifer contamination from the sulphide exposure (producing sulphuric acid) in the open cut which will slowly fill with water.

Other issues include the effect of the longterm of tailings dam full of heavy metals and chemicals which would remain forever, even after any mining ends and the proposed placement of an 80 metre embankment of waste rock, which having been exposed to oxygen during the mining process, will produce chemicals which will then seep into the ground, ground water and surface water.

Please protect this community and their livelihoods from this mine.