

My name is **Rosalind Manley** of Soldiers Point, NSW. I wish to make a submission concerning the '**Bowdens Silver Project 9641**'. I am a retired school principal who has major concerns about the future we are creating for our children.

I oppose the Bowdens Silver Project because of the serious risks to the resident community, both young and old, as well as the destruction of the beautiful environment that includes mixed farming activities and a variety of natural flora and fauna such as koalas whose habitats will be ruined forever.

Although named the Bowdens Silver Project, the proposed mine operation will be to remove silver, lead and zinc, I read. With this in mind, I would like to focus on three issues, although acknowledging that there are many more concerns related to the total process of mining here. These issues are the dangers of lead poisoning, the reduction in availability and quality of water and the effects of transporting the mined minerals through nearby populated areas of NSW.

1. **Lead.** Lead poisoning is a devastating condition that affects people for many years after their initial exposure. It can cause severe mental and physical impairment. Young children are most vulnerable as their brains and nervous systems are still developing.

Lead particles can travel through the air and breathing in dust that contains lead can cause lead poisoning. One cannot smell or taste it and it is not visible to the naked eye.

Symptoms of lead poisoning in children include behavior problems, low IQ, hearing problems, growth delays and short or long-term learning difficulties.

The proposed mine is just 2 kilometres from the Lue School and township, and within 40 kilometres of a major town of Mudgee. Along with the people living in those townships there are many others living nearby on rural properties. This mine proposal will put at risk the air quality of many people.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Scientists reports that no amount of lead in the blood is safe, and that even with treatment, it can be hard to reverse the effects of chronic exposure. (Healthline.com)

2. **Water.** The Cudgegong River and Lawsons Creek Valley in NSW is a beautiful region that relies on an annual rainfall of just 26.6 inches, or 676mm. This is a significantly small amount of rain for an area that is currently prime farming country. The process of mining uses a substantial amount of water, usually accessed from subterranean sources but also from above ground collectors such as dams and tanks. Drainage systems will inevitably pollute the water catchment for the people living downstream of the mine, and aquifer levels will decrease due to heightened use of this normally reliable water source. The mine also proposes to access water from Ulan; this water will be needed by local farming communities and with our recent drought experience, the Ulan community deserves to have priority access to this precious water source.
3. **Transport.** Once mined, all minerals will need to be transported to their market in B Double trucks along country roads, including right through the main streets of Mudgee, a rural town of 12,400 residents. The proposed mine will operate 24 hours per day, and this will create constant noise and contaminated dust pollution for the farming areas and the villages and towns through which the minerals are transported.

The proposed Bowden Silver Mine must not go ahead. We live in the driest continent in the world, and as a such, Australia must be preserved and cared for in a way that will ensure it will be the sustainable home to our children and their children into perpetuity. We must protect our fragile flora and fauna, learn to live and manage with the small amount of rainfall that comes and preserve our land as best we can, as our future depends on it.

The Mudgee and Lue areas of NSW are magnificent in their fragility.

As someone who understands that in this 21st century there are many existing challenges for people - young and old - I strongly oppose the Bowdens Silver Mine proposal and believe it should not be allowed to go ahead because it will create serious problems and destroy the essential quality of life for the people who depend upon the local water and air quality for their existence.