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[REDACTED]

Re: Bowdens Mine Project, Lue

Submission to Independent Planning Commission

The Bowdens Project must be rejected in consideration of the immediate and the very long term public interest.

Broken Hill is a prime example of the extreme toxicity to people, animals, water and the entire environment, of mining silver and lead and the associated heavy metals that accompany those minerals.

Lead paints were banned years ago but are still a danger to renovators of old homes.

The complex water tables are inestimably precious and damage to them is irretrievable. From whence would our clean water come for homes and agriculture?

Short term gain for a few exploiters – I notice USA, Switzerland and USA are the primary beneficiaries of this project.

We are the caretakers of this unique and amazing valley that attracts tourists from all over the world to luxuriate in its beauty, and which nurtures our families that have chosen to live here because of its life style and environment.

I understand this is to be an open cut lead mine – the very first one in the world! There is not enough consistent water in the Lawson Creek to “dampen down” all the dust from an open cut mine. And who controls the wind!?!

Our citizens trust our authorities to keep our environment safe. If this project is permitted to proceed we will have failed them – miserably. We are gambling with the health of the environment and the entire population.

Louise Windeyer – 15 February 2023

I gave to the Lue Action Group my objection to the Bowden Lead Mine proposal on Wednesday but after attending several sessions of the Public Hearing in Mudgee I am more concerned than ever that this mine proposal could possibly proceed. **It must be refused.**

Slick talking vested interests attempting to talk up the apparent benefits of Bowden’s proposed mine, and the apparent adequacy of the Department of Planning & Environment’s recommendation have left me more than very concerned. I am depressed.

We already have more jobs and successful businesses in the district than the few this proposed mine could ever supply. We have more income to the district than this mine could ever contribute.

The risks of lead contamination are terrifying and irreversible. The tailings dam is totally inadequate and positioned over a fault line. One accident, one error could ruin our food bowl, not just at Lue, but at Mudgee, down the Cudgegong to Burrendong Dam, Wellington, Dubbo and all the way to the ocean. And who guarantees the dam liner for eternity – it is lead we are talking about.

The risk to water flows in the Lawson Creek are alarming. We live in a delicate eco-system. The locals know the weather here and what it bring. Huge rain, no rain, fires, dust storms, wind – and no spare water. Please, please, please refuse this unconscionable proposal to destroy “heaven”.

Louise Windeyer – 17 February 2023