To whom it may concern;

Myself Jade Miskle and my Husband Allan Leonard Strongly Object to Bowdens Silver Mine at Lue Proceeding and ask the IPC to reject their application to proceed.

How does Lead effect children’s health? We ask this question as parents to a 3 year old little boy and currently expecting the birth of our second child, with the potential opening of a silver/lead/mineral mine a mere 10kms from the home in which these children are being raised.

The following statement has been taken directly from the NSW health website;

*“Lead can enter human body by inhalation or ingestion. It can affect almost every organ and system in the body. The symptoms of lead exposure depend on how long and what amount is ingested or inhaled by children. As lead poisoning often occurs without obvious symptoms, it can go unrecognised.*

*Lead exposure in childhood can cause behaviour and attention problems, learning difficulties and cognitive losses. It may also affect physical growth, blood cell development and the functioning of the kidneys.*

*Lead ingested by pregnant women can pass through the placenta and affect babies”*

*According to WHO there is “No safe level of exposure to Lead” a statement I’m sure you have read over and over in all these submissions. Yet at what point does it register that this danger far outweighs the short term gain of employment*

Minerals that are mined from Bowdens “silver” mine as stated in the project planning reports will be removed from the site for further processing, there is absolutely no way they can effectively mine/remove these materials from the site without chance that surrounding communities will not be effected & contaminated. They simply cannot control mother nature to the degree they claim possible.

In addition, we are aware that an expert from Macquarie University, Professor Taylor, has publicly stated that the water resources available at the mine will not be sufficient to suppress the risk of lead dust covering the area.

In the Report produced for the Dept Bowdens state that there will be levels of exposure but this data is based purely on averages and no specific detail of how much/how often we can expect these exceedances to occur. Posing a great risk to Human Health

If my children are exposed to lead and other harmful substances there is no repairing the damage, it is lifelong and irreversible as it is to the many other families living within close proximity to the mine.

A school where children will spend the most hours of their day is 2km from the mine, the School we had anticipated sending our children to when the time comes.

We have no greater asset in life than our health and the health of our children is the absolute forefront.

According to NSW health one main way to help minimise exposure if the soil has potentially been impacted is to “move play areas away from bare soil and try to keep your child out of the dirt”

Imagine our government actually allowing a mine of such potential danger go ahead that this is how families in the community would need to raise their children, fearing letting them play outside in the dirt at their own home.

The owner of the mine, does not send his children to Lue School, nor does he even live in the community, why would he care about the safety of our children when it will simply have no impact on his family.

I have grown up in the community, the property my family live on is three generations, we do not want to have to relocate our life and family to keep them safe.

If the proposed Tailings Dam is to leak, there is no secondary Dam as backup. Our water table has the potential to be contaminated forever.

Dust contaminates in the air have the potential to poison the Rylstone Water reservoir, will the mine be regularly testing the water for its safety? Not likely.

There is nothing in their plan outlining the safety of water catchment from peoples roofs into tanks to allow for safe drinking water.

We grow a lot of our own produce on our property, but fear that will not be possible should the mine go ahead as the soil and the water could both be contaminated.

For our part, we will have our children tested for Lead levels should the mine go ahead and if the levels increase during their lifetime, then we can assure the mine owners that we will pursue all legal avenues to make sure that Bowden’s take full responsibility for any failure on their part to keep our children and the community safe. We will hold Bowden’s Accountable

*Regards*

*Jade & Allan*