Dear Commissioners

I attended the IPC Public hearing last week in Mudgee.

I ask the Commissioners NOT to approve Bowden’s Mine at Lue for the following reasons

The reasons why I object to the Bowden’s Mine proposal are

1. I live in Lue
2. I live 2.5km from the tailings storage facility, I live downstream of the mine with 500m of creek frontage
* My home will be affected by noise, light, toxic lead and cadmium dust, odour from the mine and tailings storage facility and the ore dumps.
1. The mine will mine lead, zinc and silver and I am very concerned that my family in particular, my elderly parents, nephews and nieces will be poisoned by lead. I have lived in Lue for 30 years.
2. My family home is my only family asset.
3. If the mine is approved, I will not be able to live in my home any longer due to noise, toxic dust and the unpleasant odour.
4. No one will purchase our family home and if we are able to sell it will be for a much lower value.
5. I have been told by Bowden’s that I will not receive compensation.
6. My family will be in danger driving on the Lue Road to shop at Mudgee I will be in danger driving on the Lue Road to work at Rylstone Olive Press. There will be at least one truck per day of explosives on the Lue Road and over 400 additional vehicles on the road.
7. My main road danger is the new haul road for the mine which I will have to navigate around trucks daily. Night and day as I work seasonally at night processing olive oil at Rylstone Olive Press.
8. My friends have started to sell up and leave Lue and I will have no friends here.
9. My Lawson Creek water will be inaccessible because the mine will lower the level of the water in the creek and I will be unable to pump water.
10. My Lawson Creek drinking water will be contaminated if there is any slips or seepage from the tailings storage and we were told at the hearing the tailings dam will seep every day.
11. My rainwater will be contaminated by lead. The lead will settle on my roof and be washed into my rainwater tank
12. The bushland surrounding Lue where we walk and spend time will be destroyed.
13. The wildlife will be scared away by blasting, vehicles, noise and activity and people.
14. The creek will be contaminated and I will no longer be able to swim or enjoy the lovely areas along the creek.
15. My mental health has suffered enough due to the drought, the bushfires, covid 19 and now this application is another blow to my wellbeing.
16. I am concerned about the Aboriginal heritage sites and I am certain that they will be destroyed in the same fashion as the sites in the Pilbara.
17. I am 55 years old and have worked at Rylstone Olive Press since 1998.
18. I work in the olive grove I will be subjected to toxic lead and metal dust depositions on my clothes, skin and eyes.
19. I work inside the olive trees, pruning and hands on in grove management. I will breath in the fine particle lead dust and free silica particles which are smaller than the larger lead dust.
20. I also slash the pasture sward and will stir up the heavy metal dust deposit on the pasture sward so every time I get out of the tractor I will be covered in heavy metal dust.
21. I am concerned about my health and any symptoms I may get due to the heavy metal dust deposits in my work environment
22. I will not be able to drink the water at my place of work, nor wash olives or process olive oil with that water
23. I will not be able to irrigate the olive trees or spray foliar sprays on the trees with that water

My requirements if the mine is approved

1. To work at Bentivoglio Olives and Rylstone Olive Press in a safe and toxic lead metal dust free environment without harm to my health, my familiy’s health from me bringing lead dust home on my clothes etc.

2. My work must provide me with potable drinking water and Bowden’s must provide this for Bentivoglio olives and Rylstone Olive Press.

3. To drive to and from work safely on the new haul road and the Lue Road without risk of an accident from the over 100 truck movements that I will encounter to and from my workplace.

4. Should I suffer nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain, headache, myalgia, muscular symptoms, dizziness, irritability, memory disturbances, insomnia, allergic conjunctivitis, rhinitis, dermatitis. Throat discomfort, cough, shortness of breath and asthma. I will not be able to work again.

Please provide me with more information about

1. What my rights are if my health deteriorates due to the toxic metal dust on me and the water I drink and the acid mine drainage into our Lawson Creek 500m frontage.
2. What is silicosis and how will it be treated if I get it?
3. How will I be able to help my elderly parents if they suffer mental decline from lead in their blood.

Mark Barnes