

First Ridge Wines is an award winning vineyard and cellar door located in beautiful Mudgee, with what we think is one of the best views of Mudgee from a cellar door.

First Ridge Wines has been owned by the same family for over 25 years.

We strongly object to the proposed Bowdens mine. Our reasons are as follows:-

- The inadequate management plan to deal with dust suppression.
- The unproven proposed plan to deal with acid mine drainage.
- The very real potential for water contamination.
- Insufficient water supply for this project.
- The proposed blasting schedule will impact the quiet enjoyment of Mudgee residents and visitors alike.
- The Assessment Report excludes any meaningful mention or exploration of the role tourism plays in the Lue and broader Mudgee, Rylstone, Kandos region, and in turn fails to assess the impacts of an open cut lead mine on the future viability and sustainability of the visitor economy and tourism sector.
- The proposed mine will be an open cut lead, zinc and silver mine which could have serious impacts on our health, our water and our livelihoods.

Lead dust and water contamination is a very real concern. Lead dust from Australian mainland mines has been recorded in the Antarctica, so it is reasonable to assume lead dust will impact the Mudgee region.

Any lead dust contamination will decimate or even destroy the wine industry in Mudgee.

The flow on effect would be that the Tourism sector would also suffer.

We would have to test our fruit for contamination on a regular basis. Any level of lead would result in us dumping our fruit, which means we couldn't make any wine.

The Mudgee region has enjoyed substantial growth in the Tourism sector in recent years, which has been rewarded with Industry recognition.

The Mudgee wine industry has played an important role in the tourism sector.

Visitors to the Mudgee region are not just Sydney based residents. We enjoy many visitors from interstate and overseas ALL our visitors comment on the beauty of our region.

People will not want to visit Mudgee if it puts their health at risk.

Why risk Mudgee's enviable reputation as a tourism and lifestyle destination!

Graeme Salt
Manager
First Ridge Wines