Oct 19th 2026 LEAD Group MRAG objection to Bowdens Lead Mine

Elizabeth O'Brien sent an email with Subject: "Please Stop Bowdens Mine & Plan instead for NSW to have the world's first Circular Economy for Lead", on Nov 3rd 2025 to the office of the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Paul Scully, and the email and reply from Gino Mandarino, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of The Hon Paul Scully MP, was then kindly submitted by Mudgee Region Action Group (MRAG) on behalf of The LEAD Group to the IPC 2026 Submissions process. To find it online at https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/cases/2022/12/bowdens-silver *go to the Public Submissions box, and search for "LEAD Group"*

From Gino Mandarino, Office of The Hon Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, 4 November 2025:

Dear Ms O'Brien, I acknowledge and thank you for your correspondence. I confirm that your correspondence has been forwarded to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for further consideration as part of the assessment process for this project. Regards, Gino Mandarino, Deputy Chief of Staff.

From Elizabeth O'Brien to the Minister, 3 November 2025:

Dear The Honourable Paul Scully, As the lead author of Model National Lead Safety Policy Proposal by The LEAD Group (2023) at https://leadsafeworld.com/solutions/ and manager of the world's largest publicly-accessible lead library containing such gems as the Lancet Planetary Health study which says the global health burden of lead is up to 9% of global GDP, I'm writing to appeal to you to ignore the NSW government's vested interest in receiving mining royalties and taxes by creating jobs in toxic lead mining and to simply not approve Bowdens Lead Mine or any future NSW mine proposal where the largest mass of mine product will be lead. As noted in The LEAD Group's Circular Economy for Lead Petition at https://www.aph.gov.au/e-petitions/petition/EN6714 Australia needs a new policy of creating the world's first Circular Economy for lead, having already contributed too much grief from lead's increase in crime/health burden/environmental contamination/WHS nightmare to the world by being the world's largest lead exporter (with NSW contributing the most lead due to Broken Hill having had operational lead mines for over 140 years), and your federal colleagues in the Labor Party are currently pushing not only to protect the environment, but also to begin environmental contamination abatement. There is so much lead in the global and Australian environments due to not only the past use of leaded petrol and paint which has made lead the most widespread soil and building dust contaminant, but also to poorly controlled lead mining, smelting, transport, production of lead products such as flashing, damp coursing, brass plumbing products and lead-lighting for which there are safer non-lead alternatives and poorly controlled lead acid battery collection and recycling. Australia doesn't need another lead mine. Enough is enough. As NSW Planning Minister, I would hope that you could firstly quash Bowdens Lead Mine proposal once and for all, and secondly, get behind the creation of jobs in the areas of research, collecting and recycling lead that's already out there, and developing a plan to only approve a development that aims to

create new lead acid batteries from 100% recycled lead, thus creating the world's first circular economy for lead. With Bega Valley being the home of a circular economy research institute, the Bega Valley would make the perfect place to approve such a development. Think of the income to NSW when the intellectual property developed in creating a circular economy for lead was exported to the world, rather than more lead being exported. As the mother of lead poisoned children, I beseech you to stop actual lead leaving our shores, only to end up in the black markets of low and middle-income countries where children recycle lead acid batteries on the street and lead is turned in to toxic Ayurvedic medicines and added to herbs and spices to increase profits, made in to toys etc and generally being responsible for the loss of millions of IQ points in children and early death in adults. It's time to stop putting the almighty dollar before health, the environment and the lives and jobs of the people of the pristine Mudgee area. Isn't Broken Hill lead mining enough of an environmental disaster and global embarrassment for New South Wales? NSW needs smart children to help avert a climate disaster, not another lead mine. Yours Sincerely, Elizabeth O'Brien, aka Grandma Lead, Honorary Secretary, Australian Dust Removalists Association (ADRA), Lead Scientist and Lead Advisor, The Lead Education and Abatement Design (LEAD) Group Inc