

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE BY MS LUCY WHITE, LOCAL RESIDENT, AT
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2 – HEALTH INQUIRY INTO CURRENT AND POTENTIAL
IMPACTS OF GOLD, SILVER, LEAD AND ZINC MINING ON HUMAN HEALTH, LAND, AIR AND
WATER QUALITY IN NEW SOUTH WALES – PUBLIC HEARING, 4 OCTOBER 2023**

Question:

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY: I am just trying to get the time lines right here because this will help inform our thinking and our report. In that period from 2016 on, when there was obviously a live examination of the proposal for the Bowdens mine to proceed, there was no consultation at all with hospitality in the visitor economy industry here? That's what I'm trying to nail down, that there was just none at all.

LUCY WHITE: I will take that question on notice, but not that I'm aware of. If there was, it certainly didn't manifest as evidence and facts in the economic assessment.

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY: You will take it on notice. I am just trying to be clear about this. So you are not sure?

LUCY WHITE: You would like clarified what level of consultation there was?

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY: If there was any. I am trying to understand.

LUCY WHITE: I will do my best to find that.

Answer:

There was no consultation with tourism and / or hospitality businesses or organisations involved in the visitor economy in the Mid Western Region during the planning and assessment phase of the Bowden's lead mine project at Lue NSW. Further, the available data on the value of the tourism industry, the number of direct and indirect jobs associated with this industry was not considered in the economic impact assessment report by the DPE (Department Planning & Environment). Given the current value of the industry as \$334 million annually (Tourism Research Australia) it is negligent to have not assessed the impact, nor the potential impacts, of the development of a heavy metal mine in the middle of a reputable, popular and award winning tourism region in the Mudgee Region.