

**Submission  
No 43**

**IMPACTS OF THE WATER AMENDMENT (RESTORING OUR RIVERS) ACT  
2023 ON NSW REGIONAL COMMUNITIES**

**Name:** Mr Alex Wisser

**Date Received:** 12 April 2025

I live in an area that is currently prime agricultural land in the semi-arid climate of Mid Western NSW. We have had Bowdens silver mine proposed for our area which will put significant demand on our already challenging water conditions in order to run its operations and keep toxic dust from the mine site suppressed. The mine has been allowed to collect half of this water from unlicensed "exempt" forms of water collection. This loophole renders our current regulations almost meaningless and needs to be addressed in any reform to the laws and policies that control how water is allocated. Water is a shared resource and thus needs to be fully regulated to make sure it is distributed fairly and allows for environmental flows that sustain the health of the hydrological system

1. Bowdens plan to use unlicensed water caught in excluded works exempt dams for 50% of their water needs. Impact of the flow of Lawsons Creek and other water users in the Lawsons Creek Valley.
2. On average 924 megalitres of contaminated water will be caught on the site every year and given the toxic nature of the waste from silver, lead and zinc mining, no water can be released. During periods of heavy rainfall and flooding it is likely contaminated water will leave the mine site.
3. Other projects in NSW are also using the Excluded Works Exemptions with unknown consequences and impacts to the Murray Darling Basin.