

**Submission  
No 47**

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

**Name:** Ms Stephanie Luke

**Date Received:** 13 April 2025

To whom it may concern,

Every week I am dealing with projects that require water here in the Central West, whether it's mining, nuclear, agricultural, dams and pipelines. I cannot understand the big vision that NSW Government would like to achieve going forward.

I am a climate refugee from South Australia where water is considered rare, precious and essential to the survival of that state, so much so that there are zones in place where only agricultural and environmental activities occur. No mining or projects which could jeopardise water quality and security are allowed.

However NSW is completely different. I can't see any rhyme or reason to the way you conduct business. Indifference to water security doesn't begin to describe the approach you take to mining approvals. Your concern for health in local communities, and potential contamination of food production show an utter disregard for regional, rural and ultimately city based folk.

Coupled with the effects of heating as a consequence of climate change and the encroaching desert from the west, I would have thought these factors might influence your decision makers, but there is no evidence that it is having any impacts.

I wonder what would carry weight.

As people move closer to the East coast in search of reliable water sources and secure food supplies, finding towns next to open cut mines spewing lead dust into air and water ways will not help re-house close to two million people from South Australia or the communities west of here in NSW.

I'm aware that the NSW mineral strategy proposed by former Deputy Premier, John Barilaro, has not been changed by the Minns' Government. NSW is not like Western Australia. There is a higher population density. Our strengths lie in food production and bio security. We are also lucky enough to have headwaters that run into other states and, as such, have a duty of care that extends beyond this state.

I find it ironic that I inquired at Bunnings about products to strip a door of lead paint and the Customer service provider reeled back in horror and said "We don't recommend you do that." I had already started and my GP ran some blood tests and said "Your lead levels are too high and at a notifiable level. Don't continue the scraping and it will take about a year for your levels to settle."

This is a dangerous mine that was showcased as a silver mine which was deeply misleading when in fact lead (Pb) will make up the major resource.

For 23 years worth of resource, this is one of the most short-sighted, damaging projects. Please refrain from continuing this kind of crazy planning.

Look after our rivers and water infrastructure. It will be better for everyone.

Thank you

Stephanie Luke

Bathurst.