



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2 – HEALTH

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW 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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

26 July 2023

An Upper House inquiry has been established to inquire into current and potential impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, and land, air and water quality in New South Wales.

Dr Amanda Cohn MLC, Chair of Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health said: 'We have established this inquiry to examine the impacts that these types of mining may have, including on human health, the environment and agriculture in New South Wales. The committee will also look at what could be done better to manage these impacts.'

The inquiry will consider the impact of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on the health of local residents and mine workers including through biomagnification and bioaccumulation. The committee will also examine the environmental impacts of these types of mining on land, air and water quality.

The Chair commented: 'The inquiry will specifically consider any impacts on catchments and waterways in New South Wales, affecting both surface and groundwater destined for local and town water supplies. In addition, it will consider any impacts on aquatic biodiversity.'

The Chair added: 'On the agricultural front the committee will specifically consider any impacts on land, soil, crops and livestock, including through biomagnification and bioaccumulation.'

The inquiry will also consider a range of matters including the effectiveness of current decommissioning and rehabilitation practices in safeguarding human health and the environment, and the effectiveness of the current regulatory framework around monitoring, compliance, risk management and harm reduction from mining activities.

'This is a chance for people across New South Wales to have their say concerning these important issues' the Chair concluded.

The committee welcomes submissions from interested stakeholders. The closing date for submissions is 5 September 2023. The committee will hold hearings and site visits later in the year in locations including but not limited to Orange and Mudgee. For further information, including the terms of reference, please visit the committee [website](#).

For further information, please contact Committee Chair, Dr Amanda Cohn MLC, on (02) 9230 2566

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