



Our ref: DOC23/903965

Dr Amanda Cohn MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health
Parliament of NSW

By email: portfoliocommittee2@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair

I refer to Portfolio Committee No. 2's Inquiry into the current and potential impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, land, air and water quality in New South Wales and to the hearing on 18 September 2023.

Response to the supplementary question

Please find enclosed my response to the supplementary question.

Clarification of my evidence

Thank you for the opportunity to review the uncorrected transcript. I wish to clarify some of my evidence. This information is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Beaman
Executive Director Regulatory Practice and Services

Encl

16 October 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 2's Inquiry into the current and potential impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, land, air and water quality in New South Wales

**Stephen Beaman, Executive Director Regulatory Practice and Services
Environment Protection Authority**

Response to the supplementary question

Question 1:

In your testimony you referred to your water sampling program but the point you were attempting to articulate wasn't quite clear to me.

Could you please confirm these results with reference to both tank and point of use sample results for heavy metals such as lead? For example, you stated: 'The kitchen tap, 38 of the 85 properties had lead concentrations slightly above the health guidelines, so about 3 per cent.'

Answer 1:

The results from the point of use samples from the 85 properties had lead at or marginally exceeding the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines at three properties and nickel marginally exceeding the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines at one property.

The results from the water tank samples had lead at or exceeding the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines at 14 properties, cadmium at or exceeding the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines at two properties and antimony at the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines at one property.

We now have the results for 97 properties and none of the 12 additional properties had results at or exceeding the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines for point of use samples or water tank samples.