

Submission  
No 4

**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**

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

Recent mining approvals at Mudgee and Kings Plains are ignoring the obvious health and environmental effects of the mines. In the case of lead mining at Mudgee, offering ongoing blood monitoring is not a suitable control measure and is an admission of risks. At Kings Plains, the new gold mine is being constructed over the source of the Belubula River and relies on polluted water being piped from Lithgow. A huge risk to the downstream flows and local towns is a failure of the tailings dam similar to what occurred at Cadia mine. These plans are extremely hazardous to the Belubula River, Carcoar Dam and all downstream users as far away as Canowindra. The cost/benefit analysis by approval authorities is underestimating the real costs to health and environment.

A problem common to all mines is the lack of surety around funds being available for rehabilitation works once the mine is beyond its useful life. This can result in costs to the community that were not part of the original cost/benefit considerations. Despite comforting assurances by a very articulate GM of Cadia Mine that past dust exceedances have been addressed and that emissions are now compliant, the EPA eventually became involved and found emissions to still be excessive and illegal and have had to impose additional reporting requirements by the mine. Cadia have appeared to be concerned for the local community while having to be dragged kicking and screaming to reform their procedures.

Maximum fines of \$15k are ridiculously low and have no impact on such profitable operations. I also believe that ALL testing should be dictated and controlled by the EPA and not by the miners themselves for the obvious reasons of the potential for tampering with samples and instrumentation.