

**Submission  
No 7**

**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**

**Organisation:** Goldfield Honey Aust Pty Ltd

**Date Received:** 22 August 2023

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My name is Vicki Lockwood, Director of the Goldfields Honey Group located midway between Orange and Bathurst in Central West NSW. Our facilities are located just 2km from the approved goldmine at Kings Plains near Blayney.

Goldfields is a family business, owned and operated by the Lockwood family since the 1982. Goldfields is one of the largest beekeeping operations in Australia, running approx. 12,000 beehives for honey production, queen bee breeding, nucleus hives and pollination.

Goldfields also packs honey for major supermarkets and retail outlets, it has a honey shop, function facility and tourist outlet called The Beekeepers Inn, we also manufacture bee boxes, produce pollen, beeswax and have a candle making business.

We employ approx. 40 people.

My honey facilities are B-Qual accredited and SQF accredited, which is recognized worldwide.

Over the past 10 years myself, my family, my staff have spent hours opposing the approved mine at Kings Plains, known as McPhillamys owned by Regis Resources..We have researched, engaged experts, attend meetings, written objections, submissions and attended an IPC hearing. Time and money that should have been spent on our own industry and business. The approx. cost to Goldfields was in excess of \$300,000.

The IPC hearing which was held in February 2023 was a waste of time and taxpayers' money. It was obvious that the approval of this mine was already determined, not one recommendation was taken into account.

Valuable beekeeping land is adjacent to the McPhillamy's mine. The mine will destroy rare and endangered flora, contaminated mining dust and contaminated water will jeopardies the health of bees. Dust will be deposited on our factory roofs contaminating our water leading to rigorous testing.

This is just a brief outline of what just one mine can do to our industry. Contamination

of land that surrounds all mines is of major concern which is not regulated. This is a major food security threat, not only to beekeeping but all agriculture.

Land for beekeeping is becoming more and more scarce what with urban sprawl, the destructions of native forest, national parks and mining.

The impacts on human health, land air and water quality are huge not only in NSW but all of Australia and the world. We are slowly addressing climate change, but no-one seems to care about contamination that is caused by mining. Do miners themselves have regular health testing, is it mandatory.

The Goldfields group would like to give a different angle on human health due to mining. Without healthy bees we cannot pollinate food crops. The beekeeping industry cannot have

healthy bees when air and water are contaminated, their resources being robbed. Air, water and land contamination must be investigated and addressed for the sake of human health.

Goldfields would like to make a bigger submission, but our immediate problems are the incursion of Varroa Mite that has the threat of decimating many beehives in NSW. Another major threat to food security.

One in every three mouthfuls of food you eat is due to a bee.