

Submission
No 8

**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

Date Received: 22 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

Parliamentary Inquiry - Mining impacts on Health, Air, Land and Water

The following issues are of major personal concern as we see the increase in mining application and approvals in central west NSW. Living in close proximity to Cadia Newcrest mine demonstrates just how easy it is for large mining companies to self-regulate and therefore not comply with the health & safety of both their workers and the surrounding community.

- Our own water tank (18km's south of the mine) had lead levels 4 times the acceptable amount for drinking water in the base sludge. My selenium levels were measured at the upper acceptable level.
- The dust from the failed tailings dam can be seen from hills surrounding the villages of Mandurama, Lyndhurst and Carcoar. That is a combined population of over 800 residents. To the north is the major city of Orange and village of Millthorpe to the north east.
- The Maximum allowable fine by the EPA of \$15 000 is far from appropriate. Given the amount of damage the mine has caused to the community's air and water. How do we know that this is not impacting our livestock?
- How can those who regulate these mines GUARANTEE the long-term protection of our water ways from these mining activities? Water is the source of life – you cannot undo the damage such mining activities can potentially create. Large mining companies need to be more accountable for their actions to ensure the long-term health of the surrounding community. How much water do these mines need? How is it sustainable to take the water from the catchment where it is then no longer usable for livestock or domestic use once the mine has used it?
- When will state agencies stand up to these large corporations? Don't these state government agencies represent the PEOPLE? Therefore it is the people that should be considered first before profits. When can there be a mining strategy that ensures a human/environmental health comes first when approving a mining application?
- Why aren't the regulators enforcing the most environmentally friendly mining methods? – particularly in terms of tailing dam constructions. It appears that the mining companies choose the cheapest options possible, and this can be seen in the failed wall of Cadia/Newcrest.

We request that you take all submissions seriously and we see some major change in the approval process and continual monitoring of mining across all Australia.