

**Submission
No 20**

**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: Mr Anthony McIntosh

Date Received: 28 August 2023

My name is Anthony McIntosh and I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the physical and environmental impacts of mining in NSW.

Broken bones, degloving injuries and unprecedented explosions resulting in burns and soft tissue damage, are just some of the impacts that mining has on human health.

These are very real examples of short term impacts, and these are examples that occur within the mine site itself - and were provided by an anonymous Cadia Mine employee.

And the Cadia Mine is just one example of these negative impacts, which extend far beyond that of short term human health, to long term health issues, and extensive environmental impacts.

This is exactly why the NSW mining industry has been put on notice with a parliamentary inquiry to examine the scope of contamination from Cadia Mine.

As a result, the inquiry will investigate the current and future impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, as well as the effects on land, water and air quality.

Residents in and around the town of Orange, approximately 25km away from the mine site, reported water contamination, after testing their water tanks earlier this year.

Of 68 samples, 15 were found to be ten times the safe lead level recommendation set by the Australian drinking water guidelines.

Residents have also noticed an increase in skin conditions and breathing conditions in the area, and though there has yet to be a definitive cause for this, it can be inferred that the mine is involved, as these issues were not prevalent prior to Cadia being an active site.

This is of the utmost concern for both Orange residents and those in surrounding suburbs, including Kings Plains, where the McPhillamy's Gold Project has been conditionally approved.

This has left myself, as a Kings Plains resident, having to make the difficult decision as to whether to stay in the place I have called home for 20 years, or move away to somewhere safer.

The proposed position of the mine lies at the beginning of the Belubula river system, which leads to the Lachlan River, and continues to the Murray Darling Basin.

This positioning will be detrimental to not just the area, but to the whole of Australia, as the water system will be polluted and contaminated with a wealth of toxins, including carcinogens such as arsenic.

If approved, this will be a catastrophe waiting to happen, and will ensure the water in the area is not ingestible.

There is also the potential for disastrous consequences regarding water pollution, there is also the question of air pollution.

It has already been proven by the Cadia Mine in Orange - The levels of air pollution containing metals, is far higher than that of the NSW Health guidelines, and there have even been reports of these metals being found in the bloodstream of individuals residing near the mine.

As well as these metals, the constant disruption of the ground and underground will cause a significant amount of dust and air pollution, which if inhaled by nearby residents, could be disastrous for their respiratory health.

The noise and light pollution that will be caused by the mine is also of great concern to residents. The constant operation of heavy machinery in the area is set to result in difficulty sleeping for residents, and difficulty finding peace and serenity - one of the biggest factors as to why I moved to this area almost two decades ago.

I implore you to please consider further investigating the environmental and physical health implications that mining can create. It is imperative that the health of thousands of residents in precious ecosystems are protected.

Sincerely, Anthony McIntosh.