

**Submission
No 25**

**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 Carl Jefferys

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Submission to NSW Parliamentary Enquiry on :

The current and potential impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, land, air and water quality in New South Wales.

By

Carl Jefferys

I am a semi-permanent resident of Coxs Creek, a community approximately 28km from the proposed Bowdens Lead Mine in Lue, NSW

The purpose of this document is to:

1. Outline my concerns regarding the long term health, environmental, economical and social damage that this development will bring to the local community
2. Describe my utter dismay and disappointment in the NSW Govt Dept of Planning & Environment which appears to have ignored community concerns and made a decision based on flawed/erroneous assertions by the mining company.
3. Highlight the contempt for the community by any govt which ignores the very recent, empirical evidence of the effect of mining toxic materials on residents of Cadia near Orange NSW

The Mudgee/Lue/Rylstone community relies on water collected from rooftops for drinking. Despite flimsy assertions by “experts” that heightened levels of toxic chemicals in the bloodstream of Cadia residents may not be due to dust from mining activities finding its way into water tanks, any reasonable person / govt with a sense of what’s right and wrong would want to ensure that this doesn’t happen in Lue. Particularly when there is a school 2km from the mine.

Uncontaminated agriculture for the Mudgee region is far more important to the world in the long term than mining. The establishment of a Lead mine at Lue is highly likely to destroy this industry and the greater community’s food security.

The planned mine operators predict that 1.6 megalitres (about half an Olympic sized pool) of toxic chemicals will leach into the groundwater system each day. Lawsons Creek, which feeds the Cudgegong River and provides the drinking water for Gulgong, will be contaminated forever. I understand there is no remediation plan for this contamination.

The mine proposes to use roughly 5 megalitres of water (two Olympic sized swimming pools) every day. This amount of water is often unavailable in our drought-prone region. Bowdens’ activities will result in a loss of flow from 10.9% of the Lawson Creek. This will have a significant impact on all those who rely on this critical water source.

The planned tailings dam will hold approximately 30 million tons of potentially acid forming tailings, including most of the 43,700 tonnes of chemicals used in ore processing. Many of these chemicals are highly toxic, including sodium cyanide, arsenic, caustic soda, copper sulphate, zinc sulphate, lead and zinc collector. It will also hold 17-20% of the lead, zinc and silver mined that is lost during processing.

The dam will be built over a major geological fault line above the water table at the headwaters of the Lawson Creek, which flows into the Cudgegong River at Mudgee. It is proposed to have a footprint of 112.5 hectares, across uneven ground. If the dam is compromised in any way – as it was in the Cadia mine - these toxins will contaminate our environment for centuries to come. I understand there is no remediation plan for this contamination.

Based on these points, I would call on the NSW to immediately put a stop to the Bowdens Lead Mine.

Regards

Carl Jefferys