

Submission  
No 35

**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:** 1 September 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

Submission for the Parliamentary Inquiry  
Relating to the health and well being of the residents and communities in the Cadia Valley  
NSW

I write this submission to you expressing my grave concerns with regards to the health of the near neighbours and communities living and breathing in dust from the Cadia Mines.

Cadia Mine is situated approximately 27.3klms from Orange post office

My property including stock and myself have been dumped with the dust from the Cadia Mine in unacceptable levels since the collapse of the North Tailings dam wall in 2018.

The slightest wind creates a dust event and as a result has left us with heavy metal contaminates in our drinking water, the stock water, the grass our stock feeds from and in our bodies.

Heavy metal such as lead, cobalt, nickel, Selenium, molybdenum, manganese, copper to name a few. Local residents have undertaken blood tests with up to 13 vials of blood (2 or more times), urine and hair tests as well as soil tests.

The tests have proved to show us that there is a problem and the Cadia Mine has to be accountable for the results. Where else would all these heavy metals come from. We are in most cases farmers and do not have heavy metals on or around our stock and grasses, inside our homes or bodies, our water tanks, which is our drinking, showering water.

We have also been affected by the Vent dust, which up until the last month has never been tested for the containments held within the dust that is emitted and spewed all over the district and in every direction depending on the way the wind blows.

The years that we have been experiencing the dust events with nothing being undertaken to explain why and fix the problem has taken far too long to happen. The Cadia Mine management has turned a blind eye to the dust and a deaf ear to the concerns of the residents.

We are now years into the dust events and are pleased that the EPA has finally grown some and taken action to follow up our concerns and reports. Their fine for dust events to Cadia Mines has been a pitiful sum of \$15,000 which they would make back in an hour, so did not hurt the bottom line of their income revenue at all. And the whole time we were being covered in their dust they did not reduce production.

The community has been lied to with statements like "the tailings dam dust has no heavy metals in it, it is all being removed during the process".  
"the vent dust does not have heavy metals in it" ...this being an out right lie, no systems were in place to screen the heavy metals from the dust before it spewed out into the air covering all of us.

I invited the EPA to take samples of the dust on my bench tops after a dust event, with their response being “inconclusive” even though we have photos of the dust lift off from the North tailings dam – definitely the owner of the dust on my bench. We have since been told by the EPA that they would no longer carry out testing on private properties after dust events. What and where was the cover up?

As a community we have banded together after having more than enough dust affecting the health of many.

Coughing, skin conditions, nail deformity to name a few are evident in residents and can be attributed to the Heavy Metals in our systems.

We would like to see the EPA more engaged in future with testing and monitoring the dust events and taking a hard stand against not only Cadia Mine, but any mine in the country that does not toe the line and take the health of their community, workers and the residents seriously.

Please note, that we are not looking to close the Cadia Mine, this is not our intention. We have lived with the mine as a neighbour since it commenced construction in mid 90’s, but we do expect action when they are not complying with ALL safety requirements, especially dust contaminating which is being highlighted here.