

Submission
No 86

**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: CMOC-Northparkes Mines

Date Received: 7 September 2023

Tuesday 5 September 2023

RE: Inquiry into the current and potential impacts of gold, silver, lead and zinc mining on human health, land, air and water quality in NSW

CMOC-Northparkes Mines (NPM) is a copper and gold mine located 27kms north-west of the township of Parkes in Central NSW. The mine has been operating for 29 years and during that time has provided countless opportunities for local residents for employment, contributed millions of dollars to the local and state economy and supported the local community through monetary and in-kind donations.

NPM's main mining method in the last 10 years has been block caving through both the E48 and E26L1N Block Caves. Over the life of the mine, NPM has produced 1.2 million tonnes of copper and 1.5 million ounces of gold. Both metals are mined, extracted and processed together with the final product of copper concentrate produced. NPM's ore sources are polymetallic, therefore mining both copper and gold together is critical to the ongoing operation.

Currently NPM operates the E26L1N Block Cave as well as two small open pits, E31 and E31N to extract copper and gold. Both metals are crucial for modern energy, defence, communications, health and infrastructure as well as the clean energy transition. As outlined in various reports, the rapid transition to clean energy will require an increase in demand for minerals, especially copper which is and will continue to play a significant role in this process.

NPM contributed \$21.2 million to local and state government and taxes as well as \$222 million through payments to suppliers in the 2022 financial year. NPM also contributed nearly \$300,000 in direct community contributions focusing on health, education, indigenous, environment, sports and arts initiatives. Employees also volunteer to help local organisations and events and are supported by NPM to do this during work hours or receive time in lieu.

There are 500 people employed directly and indirectly working on a regular basis at the mine, with further contracting companies' employment increasing during periods of shut down and or project related works. Employment is set to grow with several projects in various stages of approval including a new block cave mine, E22, ongoing open pits and an expansion project. NPM is a proud residential mine as one of the largest employers in the Parkes Shire, providing a stable and secure future to employees and their families with a multi-decade mine life of over 600 million tonnes of reserves and resources.

NPM places the highest significance and importance on our Social Licence to Operate. The mine has been ISO14001 certified since 2004 and this has been maintained reflecting the priority we place on our environmental performance. One of the business' values is Zero Harm; to our people, our equipment, our environment and our community. Our business is now working towards achieving The Copper Mark, an international environmental, social and governance standard aimed to contribute positively to sustainable development.

Yours sincerely

Stacey Kelly
Director – CMOC Mining Pty Limited
CMOC-Northparkes Mines