

Submission  
No 129

**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

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Partially  
Confidential

**Date; 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**SUBMISSION FOR THE NEW 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**

I am the joint owner of an Agritourism business on our property, Old Bara which is located 8kms as the crow flies from the Bowdens lead mine. At any one time we can have up to 350 visitors on our property, the mine could directly impact every aspect of our business/income. Will there be any compensation for businesses negatively affected?

The family have lived in the Mudgee region for over 30yrs and are very passionate about the great and healthy lifestyle we have by choosing to live in this area.

Negative impact concerns I have about the Bowdens lead mine:

1. **WATER SHORTAGE:** I am very concerned about the huge amount of water needed, both the ground and surface water levels will be substantially affected. The lead mine proposes to use more water from the Lawson Creek catchment than all current users combined.

Future droughts need to be taken into consideration. In the past 13 years, droughts have caused the Bara creek to dry up completely twice, the most recent time being the beginning of 2020. Climate change must be taken into consideration before relying on the water source in this area.

The geographical area of Lue and Bara does not have enough water to support this project.

If the creeks run dry, not only will this mean that the Bowdens lead mine will not be viable, this will also have a massive effect on the surrounding agricultural land. Life is not possible without water.

2. **AIR QUALITY.** The mine expects to produce 95000 tonnes of lead - a highly toxic mineral. There is no safe level to exposure of lead. Lead is a cumulative toxicant that affects multiple body systems. What we are learning about the effects on the environment and community from the Cadia mine near Orange is nothing but terrifying! More adequate testing of the pollutants must be done by the NSW government or an independent body prior to opening up the mine.

3. We breed Angus beef cattle, if there is any trace of lead in their blood, they will be deemed unsalable, what is the proposed solution to this?

We will be taking blood tests from our cattle before the project commences. We will also be testing our soils. Results will be sent to the MLA for their records.

4. **TOXIC WATER.** A highly toxic large tailings dam will be constructed less than a kilometre from Lawson Creek and will be there FOREVER long after the mine has been abandoned - these dams have been known to fail. The result would be an environmental disaster for Lawson Creek which feeds into the Cudgegong River at Mudgee. It will pollute our water supply forever. Tailings dams regularly fail around the world, in fact there have been 23 tailings dams have failed in the world in the last five years including the dam at Newcrest Mining's Cadia Gold Mine. What is in place to prevent this failure?

5. The environmental and economic effect on tourism in the Mudgee region. The tourism industry is likely to diminish if our water and air is polluted.

6. NOISE, DUST & LIGHT POLLUTION. The noise level from a mine operating 24hrs a day, 7 days a week will destroy any peace and quiet, also due to the light pollution, the ability to see stars at night will be minimised, this is a major attraction for visitors from cities. If the proposal to operate the mine 24 hrs a day, seven days a week is true, the effect from noise, dust and light pollution is a major concern, how is this going to be limited?
  
7. ROAD SAFETY. 227000 tonnes of ore will be trucked along the winding and narrow Lue Road through Mudgee township. Our local road is already very busy with tourists and commuters from Rylstone and Kandos. In order to cope with the proposed use of B Double trucks, the road would have to be upgraded significantly.