

Submission
No 131

**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: 5 September 2023

Partially
Confidential

To the Committee,

I vote, pay tax and own land 2 km north east of Rylstone and approx 16km south east of the mine site. I am most concerned about the planned Bowden's Lead mine. Our beautiful area and population is in danger of suffering irreversible damage if this mine is allowed to proceed.

We have rainwater tanks which we use for everything - showering, cleaning and most importantly our drinking water. Our prevailing winds are westerlies (both northwest and southwest) summer and winter and the possibility of airborne lead contaminating that tank water (which is taken off our roof) is almost a certainty. Reference the selenium, nickel and lead toxicity in the blood and rainwater of residents near Newcrest's Cadia goldmine. Also note the fact that the actions by the mine to reduce the dust pollution have not been effective. This does not augur well and give confidence that either the State Government or Bowdens will be able to contain the dust pollution causing the issue.

My Main Concerns are:

RISK OF LEAD POISONING; This is as I have mentioned above - We live in a low rainfall area - average of 26 inches a year - water is precious and we are in a direct line from the mine site to our house for the strong north westerlies in summer to bring the dust and deposit it on our roof and directly into our tanks when it rains again.

We have 8 young grandchildren and many family and friends who visit us often during the holidays and during the year.

WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Our area is notoriously drought affected and dry in summer. The fact that this project has no external water supply, but will require to use 5 mega litres of water (2 Olympic swimming pools EVERY DAY) means that Lawson Creek will be heavily taxed - in summer when it's dry this is unsustainable and will severely impact many farmers who rely on this creek water. Additionally the water modelling done to date fails to identify and assess the impacts on ground and surface water quality and quantity.

BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT IMPACTS; This project will be clearing 450 odd hectares of Box Grassy Woodland. It is an area of natural beauty but is also home to Koalas, Regent Honeyeaters, Swift Parrots to mention a few endangered species. The clearing of such a wide area will also make a huge and as yet undetermined difference to surface and groundwater flows.

TOXIC CHEMICALS IN THE TAILINGS DAM; The chemicals in the tailings dam some of such are sodium cyanide, caustic soda, copper sulphate, zinc sulphate, and lead are highly toxic. The dam is to be built over a major geological fault line which is above the water table at the headwaters of Lawson Creek. This creek flows into the Cudgegong River at Mudgee. If this dam is compromised the toxins will contaminate our beautiful enforcement for the foreseeable future. This is a guarantee that no one can give.

We implore you, the Committee to heed our concerns.

Regards,