

**Submission  
No 143**

**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 Andrew White

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I am Andrew White and have lived in the Mudgee district all my life. I grew up in the Lawson Creek valley and still have a strong family connection to this area.

Our family business is located on the property Havilah North on the Hayes Gap Rd which is 25 km by road from Mudgee and as the crow flies 15 km north west of Lue. With my family, we produce fine wool merinos and beef cattle. We rely on an average 620mm of clean rainfall to grow the grass to feed these animals. With a lead mine looming on the boundary fence the clean green products that we produce and have no trouble selling may be a thing of the past.

The Bowdens lead mine is the wrong mine in the wrong place and is placing the Lawson Creek and Cudgegong river system at risk. There is a very real chance that toxic waste from the tailings dam will end up in this water course. The dam is being built using technology that has not been tried and tested on this scale. Water is valuable and it is beyond belief that the short term gain of the mine could be put in front of the long term health of a river system.

Toxic waste storage is relatively new thing. It first drew the attention of the public conscience in the 1970's and has been present ever since. In the construction of the tailings dam at Lue it is not possible to draw on any experiences that are more than 50 years old. How can there be any guarantee that the tailings dam will last. Even if it is filled in there is still no guarantee that it will not leach out into the Lawson Creek and Cudgegong river system.

The water requirements of the mine are being met largely from underground sources. In the recent drought the Lawson Creek stopped flowing which is an indication that water usage is at the maximum. The addition of the Bowdens requirements can only add more stress in dry times. They will be no different to all other water users in that a dry time means water usage more than doubles, adding stress to an already stressed system. The underground water aquifer is not a measurable commodity. The amount that is taken out of it is but there is no figure that can that can be put onto the available amount of water.

Thank you for your time in considering this submission.