

**Submission  
No 147**

**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 Angus Armstrong

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## Submission

I live and work in the small town of Rylstone just a short drive from Bowdens mine in Lue of whose construction I am strongly opposed to.

I run cattle, sheep and chickens on a large farm, who eat the grasses and fodder on the property. It is grown from the sun and relies on the air to be clean and fresh in order to be healthy and safe to eat. I harvest over 100,000 litres of rainwater into tanks that we use for drinking, cooking, watering the vegetable garden and for auxiliary water for livestock. I also harvest over 10 millions litres of water into dams on the property for livestock and leisure.

I have 2 different on-site campsites that allow travellers to stay on a working farm and enjoy the sublime serenity of the farm and have access to the dams for swimming and relaxing.

Once a year we host a mushroom identification workshop in which participants can come and pick wild mushrooms to be sent to a lab for identification on mushrooms in the area.

We have had two planned traditional cool burn exercises that were to be undertaken by the traditional custodians of the area as a workshop demonstration of their generational practices.

The farm has also hosted a workshop day with Inside Outside Management to help facilitate their Holistic Management farming course.

I work at an art gallery in the town of Kandos where I am the manager. We host art exhibitions from all across the state to showcase contemporary ideas and understandings of concepts.

I have assembled a group of 22 artists called the Lawson Creek Arts Fellowship that aims to fight this kine through the medium of art and highlight the dire situation at hand.

I previously volunteered as radio presenter at Kandos Rylstone Radio along with some other 40 volunteers who provide shows 24/7 on community radio.

I also work as Installation Manager for the Cementa Arts festival which celebrated their 10 year anniversary this year. It is a highly recognised rural contemporary arts festival that brings huge crowds and ideas to the town for their biennial event.

I also run a free to public micro cinema called WAYOUTDOOR Cinema, which showcases the talents of local video artists and aims to promote their stories. We have plans to run an open air cinema sometime in spring on my property.

While this seems like a big noted summary of my resume, I am not alone in big community endeavours like this in my town, there are hundreds of people doing similar community and often free things for the townsfolk. This is a tightly knit community of volunteers and artists who celebrate their independence and agency as creative individuals and groups.

This particular mine, the Bowdens Lead, Zinc and Silver mine threatens to poison every single of these enterprises more than it already has. It has already brought much mental stress on the town as people are scared for their health, through the impact of heavy metals contaminating their water and food supply. The detrimental impacts of heavy metals on the human body is widely known and it is not a condition we want to take on lightly.

My sincere hope is that you can help us to stop this and so we can continue to live and love the place that gives us so much.

.... Gus Armstrong