

**Submission
No 172**

**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**

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I am a nurse.

But first, I am a mother. Always.

I am writing this submission out of pure fear for the detrimental health impacts that lead mining will have on my children's health.

We are an outside family. We live and breath the outdoors. Our home is our favourite place to be. The threat of a mine nearby to our home where lead will be one of the primary products mined has possibly changed the entire path of our lives.

Lead mining affects us all in every single way- it gets into the soil on our properties, it gets onto our roofs that collect our drinking water, and worst of all- it gets into our lungs, and into our entire bodies.

My children will no longer be able to safely dig in their sandpit, roll around in the grass in the paddock, swim in the creek on our property, breath clean air while riding their horses, or even safely drink the rainwater from our tanks. To me, that is no childhood at all for a farm kid.

My children if exposed to lead dust as a result of lead mining will have lifelong health implications.

How do I explain to my children once they are old enough and unwell enough to understand, that their permanent cognitive learning difficulties, liver and kidney failure are all a result of a company trying to make a buck way too close to 5 towns? Literally a result of lead mining. A perfectly healthy child transformed into a chronically unwell child, and eventually a chronically unwell adult.

My career as a nurse comes with the deepest urge to care for and to help and improve the health of every single person I come across – stranger or not. So just imagine the absolute primal urge that I feel to protect and save the health of my own children and my own family.

This submission is a desperate cry for help from a devastated mother.