

Submission
No 180

**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 whom it may concern,

I am a 57-year-old voter, taxpayer and landholder in the Mudgee region. I grew up here on the lands surrounding the Cudgegong River and returned to live here over twenty years ago. I am making this submission to express my concern about the planned Bowdens Lead and Zinc (and Silver) mine that threatens to do irreparable damage to the public health and environment of my region. People should be able to live in their chosen place without fear of being poisoned like the people in communities outside of Cadia Gold Mine near Orange NSW are.

I have recently moved to the township of Gulgong whose main water supply (drinking and household) is from the Cudgegong River. This water stands to be compromised by Bowdens own admission of 1.6 megalitres per day leaking from their toxic tailings dam. Given last year's significant rain event in our region, and the major flooding of Lawson Creek and the Cudgegong River, how will the mine prevent their toxic tailings dam from having a major overflow into these waterways? The answer is they won't! Bowdens won't be able to fix it when our river is polluted, and the government won't either. That 56-metre tailings dam wall will fail at some stage like it did at Cadia mine near Orange in 2018. At least Cadia had a second tailings dam wall which prevented a major catastrophe, Bowdens proposal only has one. Why?

I also have family and friends living in the Lue and Rylstone region who rely on water tanks for drinking water. These too will be compromised from the inevitable dust contamination as we yet again move into drought in this region. This is completely unacceptable, and I don't understand why the IPC said 'yes' to this mining project? It may well poison our communities in particular children in ways that are horrific. This is completely unacceptable to me, especially as I thought I was living in a country that purports to care for its citizens in the 21st century. I have seen the news from Cadia gold mine. The lack of response from Government is shocking. It has taken local citizens to test their own blood and drinking water to find elevated levels of minerals from the mine to see any genuine action. This leaves me with grave concerns for the health of our children, our land and our water and that the governments only concern is money they get from mining. Invest in a better future for our country! Unsafe, toxic mining will leave a disastrous legacy.

Not only will they contaminate our water but use what little we have. Bowdens proposes to use roughly 5 megalitres of water (two Olympic sized swimming pools) every day. This amount of water is often unavailable in our drought-prone region. Bowdens' activities will result in a loss of flow from 10.9% of the Lawson Creek. This will have a significant impact on all those who rely on this critical water source. It is not fair to our community nor our primary producers in the region to mismanage our precious water.

While our precious water is my major concern, I also fear for

- the environment and the biodiversity impact the mine will have on species in our area, some of which are on the endangered list such as the Regent Honey Eater.
- Traffic increase on what is meant to be a "Tourist Drive". Numerous B-doubles carrying lead on a windy country road with tourists!!!! Disaster awaits!

Yours in hope that this mine does not go ahead and the government start investing in people again!