

Submission
No 187

**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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Enquiry into human health impacts of metals mining.

Newcrest's Cadia gold mine near Orange in central NSW has been found to have some big questions to be answered. Levels of lead up to ten times higher than NSW Health recommendations have been found in resident's drinking water near the mine, while disturbingly high levels of heavy metals such as nickel and selenium have been found in people's blood.

It was only when residents undertook blood tests and it hit the news that the Environmental Protection Authority finally acted - but Newcrest got away with a paltry \$15,000 fine and a slap on the wrist.

We need to seriously consider the effects of such mining activities on neighbours and environmental health and act on the precautionary principle.