

**Submission  
No 189**

**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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During ten years, while working as South American Regional Director of Oxfam America, I worked with local communities impacted by mining, including the Yanacocha gold mine. Typically, years passed before communities near mines became aware of the dangers for their health from mining pollution, usually from tailing deposits and leakages to waterways. Again typically, mining companies deny such impacts until independent researchers produce scientific evidence and subsequently government regulation is found to be inadequate and poorly enforced.

Thus, I am not surprised to find a similar pattern emerging here in Australia after my return, specifically in the case of the Cadia gold mine in NSW.

I urge the Committee to investigate this and similar cases thoroughly and recommend legislation that effectively protects the health of local communities and ensure that such regulations are strictly enforced.