

**Submission
No 214**

**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 live on a small farm between Mudgee & Lue where Bowden's Lead (Silver) mine is located. Mudgee is an agricultural/horticulturally significant area producing some of the best wines and Organic Olives grown in NSW. This mine has potential to devastate the local Tourism industry, pollute Lawson Creek, which ultimately flows into Cudgegong River then Burrendong Dam which overflows into Macquarie River then the Darling River. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates deaths attributed to Lead is 20 times more than attributed to Asbestos. One local doctor warns lead blood levels in our local babies, children & pregnant women will potentially be alarming in the future and I don't want this for such a pristine rural region. We know of Koala populations in the district that will be affected by this mine and the village with a primary School about 2 kms away will be abandoned following the effects of mining and Lead dust which will destroy their drinking water and viability to have a home vegetable garden. The regulatory framework for heavy metals & critical mineral mining is not fit for purpose, as can be seen by another mine in the Central West.