

**Submission
No 220**

**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: Ms Jennifer More

Date Received: 5 September 2023

Background

I am a resident of Kandos in the NSW Central West. I have lived and worked in this region for over 20 years.

Concerns

My concerns relate to points 1(a) to 1(e) of the inquiry's terms of reference, in particular the long-term environmental impacts of decommissioned mine sites:

Using the the Bowdens Silver mine site near Mudgee NSW as an example:

Have the long-term environmental impacts been fully assessed and costed, for the full life of the decommissioned site?

What monitoring actions will be required, in perpetuity, to ensure pollutants stored in the proposed tailings dam are not leaking into the local catchment or affecting air quality? What will the monitoring activities cost over the extended life of the tailings dam, and who will pay these costs?

Is there sufficient reliable evidence currently available to prove the proposed design of the tailings dam will be adequate for the full ongoing life of the site after the mine has been decommissioned?

If pollution is emitted from the decommissioned tailings dam, who will be responsible for the clean-up and any site work required to fix the site's containment system?

What is the estimated long-term environmental impact of acid mine drainage from the Bowdens site? Is there a bond system or other risk-management measure in place to address potential ongoing environmental impacts due to acid mine drainage from mine sites throughout NSW?

Thank you for participating in this inquiry.