

Submission  
No 227

**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:** Miss Georgina White

**Date Received:** 5 September 2023

---

I am a voter, tax payer and resident in the Mudgee region and I am making this submission to strongly express my concern about the planned Bowdens Lead, Zinc and Silver mine on the basis of the irreparable damage it will do to public health and the environment.

I live on a farm within 10km of the planned site. We rely solely on rainwater collected from our rooftop for drinking water and on water from the Lawson Creek for farming activities. This makes us incredibly vulnerable to risks posed by airborne lead and contamination to groundwater and the Lawson Creek. This is particularly concerning as poisoning by heavy metals such as Lead is not something that you will recover from and could alter the environment in ways that leave it inhabitable.

We have been advised as a community to test the levels of Lead in our blood. This is incredibly troubling to me because once the contamination has been detected in our blood the damage has already been done. Seeing the trauma suffered by the residents near the Cadia Mine in Milthorpe leaves me with little hope that the Government will offer any help to those affected by heavy metal contamination.

My main concerns are:

1. Lead poisoning

There is no safe level of exposure to Lead so any Lead that escapes the site, air or waterborne poses a fatal risk to all life. As a long term resident in the area I know that this region is prone to prolonged dry periods and high winds. This will exaggerate any issues with dust produced by the Mine and broaden the area that will be exposed to toxic Lead dust.

2. Water

The amount of water the Mine plans to use on a daily basis is well above the amount of water available in our catchment. Using this much water means that we will deplete the catchment to a point where it becomes unable to sustain life. Once the water has been used by the mine it will sit in a toxic tailing dam, another environmental catastrophe waiting to happen.

3. Acid Mine Drainage

The plan for the waste rock from the mine is another cause for grave concern. The large pile of acid forming rock will be left in place for life, continuously leaching contaminants into the subsoil and groundwater causing problems in perpetuity.

4. Impact on family and businesses

In the areas surrounding the mine there are many farmers that have been there for generations and many that have moved here more recently. Their ability to live and work, producing food and fibre, in this catchment is under threat and will have a devastating effect on the mental and physical health if Bowdens Mine goes ahead as planned. I have already seen the deterioration in mental health of many in the local community, caused by the planned mine as they fight to protect the most basic but also the most precious of resources, clean air and water.

Sincerely,

Georgina White