

Submission to:

Inquiry into the impacts of mining in the Murray Darling Basin

From: The Biddulph Family – Canowindra NSW

By email: eca.sen@aph.gov.au

**Impacts on the Belubula River Valley following development of the
Newcrest Cadia Mine**

“Lyndon” is a property on the Belubula River which has been owned and farmed by the Biddulph family since 1911; we have owned and farmed it since 1960. It is a small irrigation property but we are writing not as farmers, but as concerned inhabitants of the beautiful Belubula Valley. The Belubula River is a major tributary to the Lachlan, and when there is water in the Belubula it contributes to the flow in the Lachlan. We are not submitting technical data as we believe that you will already have access to that in more detail.

- Since commencement of the Newcrest mine at Cadia there has been a steady decline and spoilage of the valley.
- Newcrest was able to purchase legally many active and silent water licences.
- They were also allowed to transfer a water licence purchased on the Lachlan River, and move it up river to the Belubula: a right not available to anyone else.
- They have constructed a large dam on Rodd’s Creek and have virtually taken all the water from the subsidiary creeks at the head of the river.
- Lake Rowlands is the town water supply for the valley and was constructed with a wall high enough to provide sufficient water but not so high as to prevent reasonable flow to the river. Last year Lake Rowlands was full and instead of allowing excess water to flow down the river and replenish the water table the Central Tablelands County Council sold excess flows to Newcrest. We do not believe they were entitled to do this.
- A major expansion of the mine which will cause irreversible changes to the geology and ecosystems of the valley is at present under review. The NSW State government rationalises the expansion of the mine on the basis that the mine will provide more jobs in the Orange region and increased revenue to the State. They have not taken into account the permanent damage to the entire valley and the accompanying loss of jobs, albeit not so profitable for the State revenue.

Signed

Richard and Alison Biddulph

Alexander Biddulph



Google Earth View of Rodd's Creek Dam