

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910793754003321
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Titolo	Sludge : disaster on Victoria's goldfields. // Susan Lawrence & Peter Davies
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Carlton, Victoria : , : La Trobe University Press, , [2019] ©2019
ISBN	1-74382-109-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (223 pages)
Disciplina	741.994
Soggetti	Gold mines and mining - Australia - Victoria - History Victoria History 1834-1900
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- 1. Sludge -- 2. Mining -- 3. Water -- 4. Fist fights and water rights -- 5. The sludge question -- 6. Turning the tide -- 7. Aftermath -- Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	Everyone knows gold made Victoria rich. But did you know gold mining was disastrous for the land, engulfing it in floods of sand, gravel and silt that gushed out of the mines? Or that this environmental devastation still affects our rivers and floodplains? Victorians had a name for this mining waste: 'sludge'. Sludge submerged Victoria's best grapevines near Bendigo, filled Laanecoorie Reservoir on the Loddon River and flowed down from Beechworth over thousands of hectares of rich agricultural land. Children and animals drowned in sludge lakes. This book is the compelling story of the forgotten filth that plagued nineteenth-century Victoria. It exposes the big dirty secret of Victoria's mining history - the way it transformed the state's water and land, and how the battle against sludge helped lay the ground for the modern environmental movement.