

**INQUIRY INTO PERFORMANCE OF THE NSW  
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

**Organisation:** Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust

**Date received:** 31/07/2014

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## Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust

INC - ABN 41449599554

PO Box 31, Beecroft 2119

[www.2119.org.au](http://www.2119.org.au)

The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney

Dear Mr Smith

### Performance of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (Inquiry)

The Beecroft-Cheltenham area has been subjected to a number of major infrastructure projects with substantial environmental costs to our community. The projects include the Epping to Thornleigh Third Track and North West Rail Link that have taken huge swathes of local flora and fauna, the noise from freight train wheel squeal - especially following the concrete sleepers of the very steep and winding Beecroft embankment rail grade (one of the steepest in NSW). Concomitant with that wheel-squeal, is the noise of older diesel freight locomotives working this grade.

Road noise has been escalating over recent decades with the Pennant Hills Road ridge-top alignment dispersing truck and other noise 24/7. This road is the key link between the M2 tollway and F3 freeway - effectively the major east-coast road for Australia. The M2 toll-road has been widened in recent years to allow a greater volume of traffic to and from the developing North Western Sydney residential and corridor, without adequate noise mitigation.

These are each instances of substantive loss of environmental amenity for residents in our 2119 postcode area. The Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust has some 700+ members and friends that we email regularly with local updates, such as that of 11 July below. Included in that e-message are some 5 video web-links that your Committee can see and hear, graphically, the predations residents have to bear. By contrast, many residents have the impression that our MPs, whose governments (NSW & Federal) are funding these major infrastructures, have represented their constituencies poorly. The EPA and NSW Government are not well regarded, here, for failing to mitigate the high levels of environmental loss. Another video link is appended with the 15 May message further below.

Reflecting resident concerns that have heightened tangibly over recent years, the Trust sought feedback, via an email survey in recent weeks. Some 150 completed responses were made in that time, with over 470 comments on a range of local environmental issues, including those I mentioned above. The survey covered many projects and concerns because of the range of environmental

predations our area is suffering. I have attached the Interim Survey Report as part of this submission by my Trust. A sample of the Report's results is:

*Householders expressed very high overall levels of negative or very negative environmental impacts (Q.1):*

- 92% Epping to Thornleigh Rail Link.
- 88% Loss of trees for subdivision of large blocks
- 86% Loss of trees for new houses
- 85% North West Rail line

*Householders' comments on support for a good environment in Beecroft & Cheltenham:*

- 92% Poor or Very Poor support by NSW Government (Q.5)
- 89% Poor or Very Poor support by NSW EPA staff (Q.7)
- 87% Poor or Very Poor support by NSW MPs (Q.7)
- 83% Poor or Very Poor support by Federal MP (Q.7)

The community feedback adduced is capable of further cross-tabulated analysis, if the Committee wants. I am out of AU until late September. Please email \_\_\_\_\_ who is kindly running the Trust Secretariat during that time, to advise the Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust further. Other reports on our locality's environmental losses are accessible at [www.2119.org.au](http://www.2119.org.au) [Recent Submissions].

If your Committee would like to inspect our area with a Trust representative, please email \_\_\_\_\_  
Thank you for the opportunity of contributing this submission.

Regards,

**Colin Johnston**

Trust Secretary



**Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust**

**50 years of service**

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## Parliamentary Enquiry into NSW Environment Protection Authority [EPA]:

Hon Luke Foley MLC - Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council - NSW Parliament has advised your Trust: *"The Inquiry is able to examine the EPA response to issues arising from the Epping to Thornleigh Third Track project. The parliamentary committee is now inviting submissions from members of the public. I encourage members of the Beecroft - Cheltenham Civic Trust to make submissions. The closing date for submissions is 29 August 2014."*

**The pictures below remind us of the predations our area is suffering under government initiatives.** The Trust is seeking your household's feedback on our local environment, to inform this NSW Parliamentary enquiry on the functioning of its Environmental Protection Authority. Please

take a few minutes and tell us your household's views on our questions below. With your help, the Trust can report:

- ✓ Detailed input to the above EPA review by NSW Parliament
- ✓ Feedback on the role of MPs, Councillors and others regarding our local environment
- ✓ Detailed operational examples of environmental [mis-]management in relation to residents' expectations.

**HAVE YOUR SAY - “Environment 2119 – EPA Report Card”- click on:**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6LXG5K9>

Interim survey results will be reported on Thursday 24 July, and be shared with all emailable Trust members and friends, MPs and Councillors. *Let's make our 2119 area a better place to live!*



*June ETTT Construction Dust video clips:*

13 May 2014 @ 3.40pm -dust all over The Crescent -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtkQsBekjyw>

19 June 2014 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaVI4FlvRMY>

16-19 June 2014 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EiU5sWHMsSY>

*Freight Train Wheel Squeal video clips:*

14 May 2014 - Beecroft Scout Hall (after Tree was felled)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApZ19dj7ILl>

8 Feb 2014 - Children's Playground Beecroft [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5\\_dvn8rnBK4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_dvn8rnBK4)













*Figure 18: Photomontage - Chapman Avenue frontage*



*Figure 19: Photomontage - Corner of Chapman Avenue and Beecroft Road*







