

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

As a resident of Northern Sydney (Cheltenham/Beecroft) we have been burden with our fair share on SSI & the adverse impact of this industrialisation of our residential area & environment with the ETTT (Epping to Thornleigh Third Track) & NWRL (North West Rail Link) M2 widening & Rail Power Supply upgrade to the rail system and (yet to see how the M1-M2 connection will impact on our suburb).

Three major issues of this industrialisation & the EPA's lack of due diligence in defending the integrity of the area (both physically & psychologically).

1: Freight Train Noise/wheel squeal. Beecroft/Cheltenham suffers wheel squeal of around 108db from many of the old rail freight locomotives & bogies. To date with all our complaints the EPA have never prosecuted freight train operators with any breaches. Why? Is it because old rolling stock in the rail freight industry is not regulated? Why is it not regulated? Why hasn't the EPA & NSW state government set standards for freight rail noise & address the problem at its source (bogies & locomotives).

The ETTT is set to increase freight trains through Northern Sydney by 50%. This increase will amplify the noise for all residents. The EPA to date have done next to nothing in regulating freight train noise, while freight train operators are making massive profits at the expense of the 'economic rent' & equity being ripped out of residential zones. The EPA need to lift their game & start protecting communities rather than business. The current NSW government lack of duty of care is even worse. Why won't the NSW State government give the EPA real powers to take on construction companies.

Two video examples of complaints of Freight Train noise/wheel Squeal through Beecroft & Cheltenham.

Various example during 2013

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNXPouCn-6M>

7 Feb 2014 (listen from 0.21) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttbE9tsuqCk>

2: Epping to Thornleigh Third Track (ETTT) CONSTRUCTION DUST.

To date after the many complaints & video evidence of dust emissions breaches by the Epping to Thornleigh Third Track Alliance (ETTTA), the EPA have done so little that the problem continues. EPA articulate the ETTTA are still testing their dust mitigation. Well how long does it take to get this in order, we have been complaining of the dust from this construction for 10 months. If this was asbestos the EPA would be all over this. Why hasn't the EPA prosecuted the ETTTA for these breaches, and is there a conflict of interest with Transport for NSW embedded in the ETTTA (EPA won't prosecute another government department?).

Video example of dust breaches (youtube link) 13 May 2013

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

This is not a desert nor an isolated open rural plain where dust maybe acceptable. This is dust being spewed into a residential zone in an historic federation suburb from the ETTT 19 century industrial construction.

3: Historic Devlin Creek Aqueduct & 'remnants' of the convict built Great North Walk / Road (Epping/Cheltenham border). We have made many complaints about the adverse impact on this area from the ETTT construction. Its impact on the waterway & the historical significance of the aqueduct & remnants. Residents have witnessed soil sediments & oil pollution build up in Devlin Creek. The ETTT are to build a 12 metre high 60 metre long retaining wall at Devlin Creek Aqueduct. The response by the EPA has been glib at best when all these concerns have been lodged with them. This will have a massive adverse visually & vegetation impact on the area, not to mention the issue with ETTT construction pollution spewing into Devlin Creek & flowing into Lane Cove River. At best the EPA seem to be an apologist for construction companies at the expense of the community.

90 sec video of Historical Devlin Creek & Aqueduct

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HN82Nkckvw>

It has been my experience, that in my area the residents are doing the work of the EPA, & monitoring environmental issues relating to the ETTT & NWRL. We supply videos & photos but are told they are not enough to issue warning & fines, Why? because an EPA officer has to witness the breach in person.

What I would like to see is the EPA given real power to prosecute environmental breaches. Real powers to regulate freight train noise of old locomotives & bogies. Real power to take on developers &

construction companies destroying our environment & amenities. Real powers to police these companies profiting from this behaviour.

Thank you