

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

Name: Ms Suzanne Gleeson

Date received: 28/08/2014

The Secretary,

General Purpose Standing Committee,
NSW Parliament,
Macquarie street,
Sydney NSW.
2 August 2014.

Dear Sir/Madam

I ask the inquiry to consider the failure of the EPA to deal with the issue of odour pollution in the Hawkesbury area.

This failure goes beyond agency inefficiency and appears to be favourable treatment of the producer responsible.

The following is an article from SMH and is dated 1993.

It outlines the problem of odour pollution resulting from the commercial production of mushroom compost, the growing medium used in mushroom farming.

At the time of writing 3 producers existed. Hawkesbury Council undertook to solve the problem by taking action against all 3. Only two were ever targeted, Graham Price and Mushroom Composters, one closing down and the other relocating.

The third producer escaped court action and continued to produce and pollute. Sufficient information has existed for many years, both here and across the world, establishing mushroom composting as a source of intense odour pollution.

In January this year I wrote to the NSW Minister for the Environment asking why the EPA continued to fail to act. The response failed to answer the question and referred me back to the very personnel failing the community.

The EPA hotline logs complaints, issues grand notifications of receipt of complaint, and do nothing to stop the pollution, which as late as yesterday was horrific.

Why have an agency which does not function?

Why have a hotline which records complaints but does nothing?

Why has this producer been protected for so long?

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Gleeson.