

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 4/08/2014

Partially Confidential

Hi,

I am writing this submission for the inquiry into the EPA due to ongoing problems we have experienced in regards to the smell coming from the ELF compost plant in Mulgrave.

I have lived in the Hawkesbury for just over two years, having purchased my first home here.

Within hours of moving to the house (not being locals) we were overcome with a horrible surfer, ammonia, rotten, faecal like smell. It was so overpowering that my wife, my children and I made a quick retreat to the house. Sadly the house proved little barrier and the smell lingered for hours. We have awoken many a night confronted by the smell or wall of smell to be more precise. We have tried to eat breakfast while the smell made us feel like vomiting. We have had parties at home with people scurrying for the nearest vehicle to 'get outta here'. Initially we were not sure where the smell was coming from but it became apparent rather quickly when that same smell can be smelt when travelling past the ELF compost plant. It's a sad day when an afternoon in the backyard is determined by wind gusting towards us from ELF or if there is little wind. When this occurs we know we will not want to be outside or inside for that matter.

I find it a real injustice that in this day and age with so much research into the negative effects of exposure to air pollutants which this so visibly is that the EPA have failed to stop ELF from blighting the local landscape and community in such a horrible way. I have made repeated calls to the EPA hotline and reported the stench at all hours of the day. There is no reprieve! And there seems to be no stopping ELF!

Within perhaps a 3 kilometre radius of this factory there is a hospital, high school, primary school and thousands of homes and factories.

From what I have discovered this has been occurring for a few decades and is the only one of 3 to remain! Why? This one is closer to more dense housing, hospital and schools than the others yet, they can expand and pollute freely!

The council when contacted have a too bad attitude towards residents, naturally not living near ELF themselves!

The EPA must act in the interests of the health and comfort of the community and our right to enjoy the amenity of our homes and local area.

There are many people who are sick of this occurring and the lack of control the EPA has had over this pollution. Where is the health report on the particles that do come from the plant?! From research into other plants in Perth and overseas it appears that this can be harmful.

I call on the Inquiry to investigate this issue and either provide the EPA with the ability to act in the interests of the community and place stringent controls on ELF or for a greater body to take a stand for the nobodies who suffer through this.

I recommend travelling past ELF on a cold morning to see exactly how much comes out there and to see what is otherwise invisible. I urge you to speak to Windsor High school students about how difficult it must be being less than one kilometre from this horrible smell when trying to learn! Or to speak to nurses at the local hospital that have to try and prevent the smell in the hospital.

We may be insignificant but we are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, daughters, sons and grandparents who do not wish to create waves but to enjoy the amenity and have our health protected.