

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 17/08/2014

Partially Confidential

My name is _____, I live opposite the Malabar Waste Water Treatment Plant (MWWTP) at Malabar, and have been involved with Sydney Water and the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) since 1987.

In 1987 a group was formed by myself and _____ another resident of Malabar, we both lived in _____ Malabar (I moved in 2006 _____) the group was called Campaign to End Sewage Smells, as Malabar and surrounding areas were being stunk out by untreated odours from the MWWTP as their scrubbing system failed. Since 1987 three (3) new scrubbing systems have been built on the MWWTP site.

The EPA then, were onboard to an extent but people pressure brought about somewhat, cleaner air. In, 2005 EPA engaged _____ as an Environment Officer, whose main project was MWWTP and this women worked in a more than satisfactory way to bring about change in the plants running and also in sourcing areas of odour escapes. She conversed with the local residence and became trusted by them. Always on board should complaints come to the EPA concerning MWWTP.

However, this changed in mid 2013 when _____ was dismissed from the EPA, only to be reinstated through Unfair Dismissal and I believe since that reinstatement has resigned from the EPA. The community in Malabar has suffered with odours from the time of her dismissal whether it be from the Bio-Solids Plant or the Scrubbing of Fowl Air Plant (Scrubbers). On the 19th July 2014 a spill from the Bio-Solids plant Sydney Water was fined for creating extreme offensive odour, but, no EPA officer in this instance went to the sewage plant on that day, _____ was told "not to step a foot on the site", this was prior to her dismissal, another EPA officer turned up a number of days later, the whole situation was down played until again people pressure sought answers. Michael Daley MP put the Minister of the Environment Robyn Parker MP on Notice for me, as I wanted to know "who was regulating the regulator". The Ombudsman Office investigated the aforementioned and the EPA on the 25th Sept 2013 responded to the Ombudsman's questions.

However odours from the Scrubbers have continued since Spring of 2013 to the date of this submission. The commissioning of a new scrubbing system earlier this year has failed. Sydney Water has admitted to this and is seeking advice from the consultants who engineered and built the stack. This stack was built to disburse scrubbed odours into a higher atmosphere away from the residents of Malabar during North, North East wind directions.

The cost for a failed scrubbing system \$27,000,000.

No one from the EPA has their finger on the pulse and no one from the EPA is advising the community of what they are doing to elevate odours from the scrubbing systems. Minutes of meeting 12th June 2014, Sydney Water and local community members states 7 odour complaints, 1 noise complaint, but I was asked to diarised on paper provided by Sydney Water any dates I experienced odours, intensity and winds direction etc, during the period mid March to mid June and I recorded 20 odour problems, this information was NOT noted in the minutes.

Are the EPA aware of what I recorded YES. Action: NOTHING.

How to I handle odours, I ring the EPA and Sydney Water and lodge a complaint. Most times the Plant Manager of the Malabar Water Treatment Plant calls me, I do not hear from the EPA unless I send an email stating "Ring me". Have they sat down and conversed with me NO.

Recently the community for a period of approximately 3 weeks was plagued by another odour coming from the direction of the plant, it stagnated in the bay area. This odour far different from what is being emitted from the scrubber stack. The source of this, Sydney Water has NO idea, EPA NO idea. Solution: NONE. Thankfully the wind changed direction, problem solved in Malabar.

Winter was once a time when the community of Malabar was not affected by odour, and this has all to do with wind direction, but now that has changed in the last 2 winters.

I feel the EPA is not protecting the people of Malabar against emissions coming from the MWWTP. It's called an ODOUR but it is TOXIC gases that the residents are breathing in, and what TOXIC

GASES are they. This question has been put to The Environment Protection Agency, their answer NO IDEA.

There is an upgrade to happen on the Malabar Waste Water Treatment Plant I was living in the area during the last upgrade, will this upgrade give the Malabar and surrounding suburbs CLEAN AIR? I DO NOT have a choice NOT to breathe. I am as entitled as you reading this submission to have CLEAN AIR.

The EPA as it stands today is NOT protecting Malabar residents.