

**Submission  
No 183**

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

**Name:** Mrs Dianne Pawsey

**Date received:** 1/09/2014

---

The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

27 August 2014

Dear Sir or Madam:

I wish to submit this letter to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Performance of the NSW Environmental Protection Authority.

Air pollution in the Hunter, land contamination in Botany and water pollution in the Pilliga! We have all three pollution problems emanating from Benedict Industries' Great Southern Quarry on Crown Land, in a National Park bordered by the Georges River in Suburbia. Please see attached "URGENT – COMMUNITY NOTICE"

What we have been confronted with in the environmental catastrophe at "Great Southern Rock Quarry", Sandy Point influences my opinion that our Government doesn't appear to have either the power or the will to control rich companies who flout EPA/Council/State laws and regulations and continue to pollute the air we breathe.

In 2010 the Great Southern Rock Quarry was re-opened. This sandstone quarry is situated on Crown Land, in the Georges River National Park Heathcote Road at Sandy Point (Sutherland Shire), opposite Picnic Point a mere 400 metres across the Georges River. Crown Land Licence RI 454972 Heathcote Road MENAI Quarry

Early this year Sutherland Council received from the Department of Planning a draft EIS prepared by Benedict Industries to support their application to expand their operations at Sandy Point Quarry to include a Glass, Sand and Inert Building Waste Recycling Plant on the Quarry Site.

Already windswept quarry-sand, soil and silica, emanating from Benedict Industries "Great Southern Rock Quarry", blanket local communities and the environment on both sides of the Georges River. Should expansion of Benedict Industries business on this Quarry site go ahead I'm very concerned it will result in more hazardous air pollution and dumped waste.

**WHEN IS A QUARRY NOT A QUARRY?    WHEN IT'S A TIP!**

Benedict Industries' mountains of waste accumulated at their Moorebank waste facility reveal the company's successful disregard for the rights of us all to expect to breathe clean air. Because Benedict Industries is redeveloping its Moorebank Construction and Demolition Recovery Facility (replacing it with a Marina) it is believed that these "mountains" are to be transported to the "Great Southern Rock Quarry", Sandy Point and it's reported that waste glass from the Moorebank site has already been illegally dumped on the quarry site.

These operators have a history of non-compliance with Crown and EPA licences and a complete disregard for the requirements of Sutherland Shire Council. The Sutherland Shire Council is taking legal action against this company and the EPA has been investigating Benedict Industries' non-compliance with its licence permits since 2012. Pollution of the Georges River apparently resulted in an EPA fine of \$1500 – such an insignificant amount could come out of their petty cash!

In the absence of an environmental benefit, a quarry operating at the current levels let alone a proposed waste facility crushing concrete and other building materials, which may include asbestos and lead contaminated waste, poses an unacceptable health risk to the local community and to our children who use the playground located 400 metres away.

Sandy Point is an established suburb predominantly consisting of families with children in the age group 0-14. Irrespective of any legal control measures that may be imposed on the proposed waste facility, the operators have already demonstrated their disregard for compliance, so the risk posed to our health and that of our children is very real.

Cannot help but question where was EPA's duty of care for local communities when Benedict Industries Pty Limited (trading as: Benedict Reclamations) was granted Licence No. EPL 1924.

The EPA boasts about their clean air regulations and other initiatives, policies, programs, etc. to improve air quality and reduce its impacts, they would surely have to be aware of the threat to peoples' health from particulate matter air pollution and its propensity to carry toxins over long distances. No doubt they would have been inundated with complaints about air pollution caused by Quarry Operations and Construction & Demolition Recovery Facilities in various parts of NSW. I have read some such complaints regarding this problem in the local suburb of Moorebank.

Granted this Quarry and SSD proposal (Major Projects, Planning NSW Gov. Job id 5744) is on our doorstep so I could be accused of being a "NIMBY" (not in my backyard) but it is not just a "neighbourhood dispute". Aside from other adverse environmental impacts and road safety issues, it should be recognised as a 360 degree by many kilometres air-pollution problem. In my opinion this is an example of what the EPA should be controlling but, it seems they aren't so I think this should be rectified.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Dianne J Pawsey

(3 Pages + 1 attachment)