

## **INQUIRY INTO HEALTH IMPACTS OF AIR POLLUTION IN THE SYDNEY BASIN**

**Organisation:**

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**Position:**

**Telephone:**

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**Subject:**

**Summary**

To whom it may concern,

As you will see from my submission that I have been heavily involved with many environmental and community groups for several years. I am not a left wing greenie out to stop development, only a concerned resident and taxpayer from the western suburbs.

I'm not going to submit mountains of statistics on air pollution from an assortment of government and non-government sources. But hope that common sense prevails with the findings by this inquiry.

I have fought for over ten years the establishment of an Intermodal / Logistics centre at Enfield. Stood before Inquiries on Port Infrastructure in NSW., addressed Commissions of Inquiry on the Port Botany expansion and stood before the Hearing panel for the Enfield proposal.

I am not an expert on Air Pollution or Human Health, but I know what I see and experience every day as I go about my job as a Signwriter working in shopping centres all over Sydney.

My environmental colleagues and myself are unique because we make the time to be informed, be involved and care for our fellow citizens. We attend meetings of concerned residents from the M5 stacks issue, to truck and diesel locomotive emissions stemming from Port Botany to Enfield and out to the Macarthur region.

We don't do it for payment nor the glory, we're not running for government or a position on the board, we do it because we care for our future.

I only need to mention a few development proposals and existing issues that must set the alarm bells ringing.

1. Over 1500 semi trailers per day, in and out of Port Botany.

With the proposal to expand, this will increase to 2500 per day and allowing for 40% of containers going by rail to Enfield a further 1650 + trucks will move onto the roads in the west.

EPA statistics show that the emissions from a fully laden semi-trailer travelling a 1km distance, it is equivalent to between 10-15 brand new motor cars with emission controls.

Figures from the manufactures of diesel locomotives show that 1 diesel locomotive generates emissions equivalent to over 6000 diesel semi trailers.

Not taking into consideration any other developments other than the Port expansion and the Enfield intermodal, they alone add up to the equivalent conservative figure of over 30,600 extra car emissions in the Sydney basin every day and if the figures from the manufactures of locomotives are anywhere credible, we may have a health disaster looming from two proposed developments alone.

These figures were presented to the Port Botany expansion Commission of Inquiry and were never disputed by the proponent or their legal representatives.

2. Cumulative impact of dioxins from industry throughout Sydney's industrial regions. For example the largest toxic plume in the southern hemisphere is Orica's Ethylene dichloride (EDC) groundwater plume at Botany.

The new world's best practice treatment plant was commissioned only six months ago to help clean up this massive disaster. The plant has been tested on three occasions and has failed World and Australian standards on all three occasions for emitting dioxins into the air.

Each development approval for any industry emitting anything into the atmosphere is looked at in total isolation. Readings are done without any consideration for other toxins being generated either in the region or throughout Sydney.

The Federal government through the Coastal Catchment Initiative program is intending to identify hot spots of environmental degradation throughout the Botany Bay catchment. This will include only some of the real issues Sydney faces due to its limited terms of reference and funding.

A Sydney wide cumulative environmental audit is needed to establish all air and ground emissions of toxic materials through any means.

3. Sydney was sold to the rest of the world as a clean, green, city during the 2000 Olympics. It was then and still is today, NOT TRUE.  
Compared to many overseas major cities, it may be, yet do want to go down the same path as they have ?

There would not be one family in Sydney that has not been touched either directly or indirectly by a form of cancer. Record numbers of adults and children are being diagnosed every day due to our insistence on keeping up with the rest of the world, by their methods, yet at what cost ?

We can debate that other factors must contribute to the health epidemic within our city, yet we could also state that very few of us live the same lifestyle, reside in the same suburb or eat the same food. One thing we do have in common is breathe the air !

If this Inquiry is to seriously attempt to understand the health impacts of air pollution in the Sydney basin, it cannot expect that anyone, professional or community representative, could do it justice by a written submission alone.

I call on the members of this panel to allow for verbal submissions and case studies to be an intricate part of the inquiry and their findings.