

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

Organisation: Correct Planning & Consultation for Mayfield Group
Date received: 29/08/2014



Correct Planning & Consultation for Mayfield Group

for the seven new wharfs of Mayfield.

Re Performance of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (Inquiry)

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000
Fax: (02) 9230 2981

gpscno5@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Director,

The Correct Consultation and Planning for Mayfield Group would like to make a strong formal submission to the EPA Inquire and at a later time address the Committee.

In February 2014 (six months ago) Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield Group (CPCFM) lodged a formal complaint related to coal wagons operation and emissions in Newcastle and the Hunter.

CPCFM expressed the opinion that coal and coal dust is not contained in coal wagons.

CPCFM contended that Hunter Valley coal wagons operate in a manner that shows failure of due diligence and failure to follow established quality principles for the loading and carriage of coal.

CPCFM considers that the operators of coal wagons and support infrastructure are not compliant with the relevant Pollution Acts and Transport Acts.

CPCFM's concerns are:-

1. Coal loaded into wagons is not securely contained.
2. That coal loaded in wagons exceeds the wagons dimensions.
3. Coal that becomes separated from the wagons is not constrained within the corridor.
4. That wagons used for the cartage of coal are not maintained adequately.
5. That the management practices of coal wagon operation fall well short of world's best practice.

Since lodging the formal complaint CPCFM is extremely concerned at the lack of action by the EPA to this very serious issue.

We believe the tardiness of the EPA in handling this very serious formal complaint should be questioned by the Inquire being undertaken by the Parliamentary Committee

In support of our submission to you we point out that the Major prosecution of Orica (nearly\$1m) was based on the very same sections of the EPA licence that is being breached with every load of coal.

A recognised figure is that each loaded coal train has a loss of about 5kg and every unloaded coal train has a loss of about 300kg

In the six month period since our formal complaint about 3,355 tonnes of coal has been lost in the rail corridor. This material has entered water courses and human lungs impacting on the atmosphere and water of the Hunter.

To support our submission to you we have prepared a CD that contains considerable information including:-

- A copy of the CPCFM complaint
- Correspondence to the EPA
- A copy of information sent to the Minerals Council following an inspection by two senior officers
- A copy of information sent to the EPA following an inspection by two senior officers
- A copy of a presentation to the NCCCe and associated comments

For additional information please contact Rick Banyard Research Officer for CPCFM.

Rick Banyard