

**Submission  
No 28**

**INQUIRY INTO PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
OPERATIONS AMENDMENT (CLEAN AIR) BILL 2021**

**Name:** Dr Heinz-Joachim Muller

**Date Received:** 30 June 2021

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Honourable Members of the NSW parliament,

I would like to take the opportunity to make a submission to the Clean Air Act.

As you can see from my name Heinz-Joachim Muller, I am of German origin. And I am a proud citizen of Australia.

When I grew up as a child in Germany is suffered from severe asthma attacks. As I got older this improved significantly but I can still remember the times of my childhood when I panicked because I was close to the point where I did not have the energy to breathe against the heavy resistance in my respiratory system. My breathing problems were at least partially related to the air pollution in the poor situation in Germany after the World War II.

When I moved to Australia some 25 years ago. I was astounded (and still am), that in Australia air pollution is still not taken seriously by federal and state governments. In regard of air pollution from coal fired power stations the emission limits in Australia are far above the levels set by comparable developed countries. This has consequences like the high rate of children with asthma in Australia. And based on my personal experience I can feel with them.

We need to do better and we can do better. The technology is there. What is missing is the request from the government to reduce the emission limits to values similar to comparable countries.

For that reason I support the Clean Air Bill.

It shows an important step into the right direction.

I also recommend setting up an independent panel of experts to advise on retrofitting NSW coal-fired power stations with best available pollution control technology. Only truly independent advice can stop the gridlock caused by vested interests by the coal industry and by the state Government which is the former owner of most of these coal fired power stations.

Thank you and please consider the unnecessary suffering of too many children in your decision.

Best regards,  
Dr. Heinz-Joachim Muller  
Woy Woy, NSW