

Anonymous, 3123

1. Some health issues related to contaminated sites seem to have fallen through the cracks between government silos. These health issues cut across several government departments and agencies eg Health Dept, Work Cover, EPA , but it seems, no agency or department has actual oversight. There needs to be better collaboration, flow of information and definition of roles. The power to act to improve health outcomes in relation to contaminated sites must be focussed. Where ever this resides the department/agency must be accountable.

2. The EPA must be appropriately funded and legislation reformed in order to allow robust pursuit and prosecution of polluters.

3. There are major flaws in current the Environmental Auditing systems and this should be brought “inhouse” so it may be more accountable and also form a funding source for EPA

a. **Environmental Auditing** is currently performed by private auditors who, while being approved/accredited by EPA, seem to be beholden to whoever is paying for the audit – often the polluter ! These audits can cost millions of dollars. Environmental Auditors must be transparent and independent. It would be best if this became a function of EPA rather than being outsourced.

b. **“Health” is currently only considered prospectively in environmental audits**– Those who may have worked at or lived adjacent to a site when pollution was actively being emitted are not considered. In my opinion there needs to be recognition of risk and follow up of those people by either/both EPA and Health Department.