


KORUMBURRA, Vic. 3950

30 October 2015

EPA,
P.O. Box 21428,
Little Lonsdale Street,
MELBOURNE, Vic 8011

Re: Independent Inquiry into the EPA

The intention of this submission is to demonstrate to you, how ineffective the EPA has been at enforcing their regulations. I refer particularly to the conditions of EPA licence (#46572), Burra Foods for milk processing.

The EPA as a statutory authority has been derelict in their performance, by not adhering to and enforcing these conditions. This ineffectiveness has caused substantial anxiety, stress and detriment to the residents living within the vicinity of the Burra Foods factory and involved in the proposed amendment to the South Gippsland Shire Planning Scheme.

In my opinion, had the EPA been diligent in enforcing their EPA licence conditions, the proposal to amend the planning scheme would have been unnecessary. The amendment is currently with the Minister of Planning, has been since December last year, and to my knowledge not yet approved.

I have been continually affected by noise well above the recommended levels and my property, including house, cars and boat has been damaged by the frequent fall out of milk powder.

A noise reading taken at my premises on Saturday 9 May 2015 at 10.30pm, registered 64dB(A), considerably higher than recommended EPA Guidelines for Country Noise and non compliant with the existing EPA Burra Foods licence conditions. I called the EPA that night to lodge a complaint, but was greeted with lack of interest.

Due to the lack of monitoring, Coalition Creek is polluted with white foam and sludge, Before the outfall from Burra Foods into the creek there were an abundance of minoes (fish) and platypi.

I attended the meeting in Traralgon on 29 September 2015, advertised as an inquiry which only covered future EPA projections. Along with the rest of the community participants I found the three questions did not address the real issues, which was the lack of performance by the EPA and their failure to act on behalf of the community and this could be gauged by the amount feedback on the white board.eg

1. What are the key environmental challenges for the next 20 years etc. 20 years is a long time in this age, with the changes to technology and environment. The EPA needs to act on current issues.

2. What should be the role of the EPA in the future?

I would think a localised authority would more effectively address community and industry needs.

One example; I refer you to a paragraph in your response letter Our Ref:5004760 Your Ref C99 dated 1 August 2013, last paragraph page 2.

States that you are satisfied that the GHD report adequately addresses the issues of meteorology and dispersion modelling.

Local knowledge would have told you that there is a range of hills (Strzelecki Ranges) between Korumburra and where the modelling was conducted. Korumburra weather comes predominately from the south west (Bass Strait), the modelling was conducted at the start of the Latrobe Valley where the weather conditions are completely different especially the wind.

The cost of my time and anxiety has been enormous. This could have all been avoided had the EPA upheld their regulations.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

Neil G OLSEN