



1 March 2013

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Committee,

Inquiry Submission – Impacts on Health of Air Quality in Australia

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the impacts of air quality on health. This is a particularly important issue to residents in the City of Hobsons Bay, located 20 minutes to the west of Melbourne. Our city has approximately 90,000 residents living amongst some of the most heavily industrial areas of Melbourne including Brooklyn and Altona North. Industry in the area includes large petrochemical companies, recycling plants, landfill, seed processing, a rendering plant, liquid waste processing and abattoirs. Due to the industrial precinct, the area experiences significant volumes of truck movements on unsealed roads, further compounding the problems with air quality.

The significant impacts of air quality from the industrial areas – dust particulates, odours and noise – have been recognized by the Victorian Environment Protection Authority, City of Hobsons Bay, City of Brimbank and the City of Maribyrnong and are the subject of ongoing monitoring, evaluation and compliance enforcement. The Brooklyn Residents Action Group Inc. (BRAG) is a significant local group working closely with the various agencies and local industry to address these issues, and I am very happy to support their detailed submission to your Inquiry.

Having spoken with many BRAG members and other local residents affected by air quality over the last 5 years, it is clear there are significant health and wellbeing issues in relation to air quality. I strongly urge the Committee to consider the concerns and experiences in Hobsons Bay and to ensure these matters are resolved and not repeated elsewhere. It is obvious planning, monitoring, reporting and ongoing compliance enforcement are important matters if agencies are to ensure suitable air quality for residents, particularly in high population areas such as Brooklyn and Altona North.

Sincerely,

Cr Tony Briffa JP
Councillor, City of Hobsons Bay
(Mayor, 2011-12)

