



**Public Service Association of NSW**

**General Secretary** Stewart Little **President** Nicole Jess

160 Clarence Street, Sydney NSW 2000 GPO Box 3365, Sydney NSW 2001

☎ 1300 772 679 📠 (02) 9262 1623 ✉ [psa@psa.asn.au](mailto:psa@psa.asn.au) 🌐 [www.psa.asn.au](http://www.psa.asn.au) ABN 83 717 214 309

*In reply please quote: MS:cr*

11 November 2021

Ms Tracy Mackey  
Chief Executive Officer  
NSW Environment Protection Authority  
Locked Bag 5022  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

By email: [Erin.Torsello@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Erin.Torsello@epa.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Mackey,

**Re: Direction to return to the office**

The Public Service Association of NSW (PSA) writes with respect to the following issues.

The PSA and Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) representatives recently met and discussed the ongoing COVID-19 situation as NSW begins its practices of re-opening from the current lockdown measures. The PSA was also advised during this meeting that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) was also part of DPIE's COVID-19 Safety Plans.

At this point in time, DPIE and the EPA are taking a more risk adverse approach by continuing the voluntary working from home provisions for those staff who are currently undertaking such work.

However, the PSA has been advised some EPA Managers have recently directed staff members to return to their respective offices to attend meetings in the person. This direction is irrespective of all the available technology which enables both face-to-face meetings combined with online participants, to be undertaken.

The PSA is of the view it is unreasonable for staff to be actively excluded from their work as a result of this direction.

Directing staff to return to the office to attend meetings is against the Public Health Orders and therefore the PSA has formed the view this is a form of bullying by exclusion.

Should you have any queries, please contact PSA Industrial Officer Michael Sinclair either by mobile 0419 411 919 or by email [msinclair@psa.asn.au](mailto:msinclair@psa.asn.au).

Yours sincerely,

Michael Sinclair  
for **Stewart Little**  
**General Secretary**