

**INQUIRY INTO PERFORMANCE OF THE NSW
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

Name: Mr Andrew Turbill

Date received: 28/08/2014

Partially Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam,

There was a time when the NSW EPA served as it was designed to do, as a safeguard against the unscrupulous environmental vandalism from corporate and private polluters. Over recent years the legislative responsibilities of the EPA have been nobbled through political intervention via budget cuts, staffing shortages and under resourcing. The Shooters and Fishers Party, a party of anti-nature ideologues, have been instrumental in white-anting the EPA.

The Upper House has the opportunity right now to restore the NSW EPA to an effective institution of public and environmental good. The EPA desperately needs its funding bolstered to realistic levels, a staffing strategy which replenishes its woeful losses of recent years and strong, independent leadership from the top, as opposed to the current political expediency from puppet managers in the agency today.

Private forestry compliance in NSW is a joke, with so few compliance officers in the EPA available to inspect properties and even when breaches are detected the EPA management are so politically subservient it is highly problematic to have cases resourced properly to secure prosecution.

Without a major bolstering of the EPA the state of NSW is a free for all for environmental criminals and we might as well join QLD as the international environmental belligerent.

Stand firm and defend the EPA - today.

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Turbill