

**Submission
No 206**

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

Name: Mr Maurice Dowson

Date received: 28/08/2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

From the nightly exposures on TV of allegedly corrupt Politicians accepting BRIBES from Developers, it is abundantly obvious that the general public can no longer have ANY faith in the ethical behaviour of our Politicians in general (sadly, from BOTH sides of politics).

No longer can we TRUST their unbiased independence, morals, or ethics - ESPECIALLY when it comes to issues involving the ENVIRONMENT (upon which we ALL depend for human survival).

Their utter disdain for environmental protection is blatantly apparent, in almost EVERY important decision.

New South Wales needs a fearless and independent Environment Protection Authority that puts the interests of the community and natural environment first.

Most importantly, it must be adequately resourced so that it can effectively meet its objectives and enforce compliance with conditions of licence or approval, defend regulatory policies and actions through law when required, or prosecute offenders.

Increased growth and industrial development are placing enormous pressure on the air we breathe, the water we drink and the ecosystems which support our well-being and survival.

The EPA has an important role to play in protecting, restoring and enhancing the quality of the environment in New South Wales. However a number of recent incidents highlight the EPA's failure to regulate or prosecute polluters and stop environmental breaches. Following these incidents there is strong public perception that the EPA has been captured by industry, and does not act in the public interest.

We look to this inquiry to address the specific concerns raised by the community and to make recommendations to ensure that the EPA is capable of putting the environment and healthy communities ahead of polluters.

Yours sincerely,
Maurice Dowson