

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

**Name:** Mr John Lamb

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Dear Sir/Madam,

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

The diversification of some authority has reduced the duties of the EPA and created confusion as to who is responsible for policing pollution matters.

For example, the Dept of Planning has taken responsibility for monitoring mine noise, however they do not do it, leaving us with NO body to keep the mines withing their consent limits.

This body should be the EPA, as an independent authority, free of influence by the mining companies who pursue profit at any expense to the environment. It is my view that the EPA should also be responsible to ensure that rehabilitation targets are met by the mines, again the DPE gives lip service to this but takes no enforcement action, leading to enormous dust pollution from exposed ground.

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,  
John Lamb