

**Submission
No 238**

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

Name: Mr Mark Selmes

Date received: 29/08/2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

New South Wales needs a strong , independent Environment Protection Authority acting for the interests of the community and our environment, not becoming compliant bureaucrats to changing political ideologies .

The EPA needs to meet its objectives as the Environmental watchdog and enforce compliance with approval conditions and take actions to prosecute offenders when needed.

The EPA has an important role in protecting our fundamental rights of clean air and clean water . In protecting our unique native wildlife and our disappearing and complex ecosystems.

My own dealings with the EPA over Private Native Forestry approvals has made me increasingly cynical as to who the EPA actually protects - our environment or forestry networks and developers. I have closely followed other incidents which have highlighted the failure of the EPA to use common sense or prosecute polluters and stop environmental (particularly forestry and mining) breaches. My own issues in Mount Rae forest have definitely left me with a sense that the public and our threatened species (and previous advice from the departments own throated species ecologists) have very little role in current approval processes .

I hope this is a genuine inquiry (and that it will also look at Private Native Forestry approval process and issues raised in Mount Rae forest and Whian Whian) and address these issues so the public can have full confidence that the EPA is acting to protect the environment in a meaningful manner and not just paying lip service like many of our governing politicians .

Yours sincerely,
Mark Selmes