

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

Name: Ms Anne Chidgey

Date received: 28/08/2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

New South Wales needs a fearless and independent Environment Protection Authority that puts the interests of the community, including and in particular the agricultural 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. Recent statistics on the level of pollution at Muswellbrook and Singleton, most likely the result of an inadequately policed and at times, out of control, coal industry.

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.

If we stuff up our environment and limit our future to mining we deny our future generations to a healthy, clean, independent rewarding future. Not to mention the angst we will suffer in the meantime from enduring poor water quality. WE NEED THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO GENUINELY PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR SAKES AND THAT OF OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN AND SO ON.

Yours sincerely,
Anne Chidgey