

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

**Name:** Ms Nerida Crowe

**Date received:** 28/08/2014

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Dear Sir/Madam,

It is imperative that we in NSW and throughout Australia have an independent body that functions as an environmental protection group.

This organisation is necessary to protect all natural environments from destruction, greed and development, which is so commonplace in our society.

Currently the EPA is very under resourced and therefore is unable to carry out their necessary aims and 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,  
Nerida Crowe