

**Submission
No 210**

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

Name: Ms Kelia Keogh

Date received: 28/08/2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our most important task as global & local citizens and protectors of the future for our children, is to ensure that we protect the landscapes and fragile eco-systems of our blessed country. To ensure that this is occurring, we need an effective environmental regulator who we can trust to uphold these critical actions are being carried out.

That regulating task has thus far been entrusted to the Environmental Protection Authority. This same EPA has allowed illegal logging, coal dust pollution, environmental contamination, & illegal resource extraction to occur, and has failed to monitor correctly, or to prosecute the polluters, or to stop these environmental breaches.

The EPA needs to be overhauled and to allow it to once again be an effective watchdog of Australia's precious resources, and to minimise the threats facing our communities and natural environments.

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,
Kelia Keogh