

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

**Name:** Ms Jennie Minifie

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

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Dear Sir/Madam,

It is critical for the natural and cultural environment of New South Wales that the Environment Protection Authority has independence and authority to intervene to protect the health and well being of the community and natural environment.

The EPA must be well 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 when the environment is under threat.

The EPA has a critical 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.

The decision of the Minister for Commerce to permit clearance of endangered ecological community in order to permit development of 26 group homes to proceed, despite the land being identified as a National and State listed ecologically endangered community of Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF) thereby disregarding representations to senior officers of the EPA, DADAC and Ryde City Council is an appalling example of government failing to properly address existing legislative requirements in order to approve a development on this land when alternative undeveloped land was available on the Macquarie Hospital site were available. Ryde Council approved th

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,  
Jennie Minifie