

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

Name: Mr Gary Humble

Date received: 28/08/2014

General Purpose Standing Committee #5
Parliament House,
Macquarie St
Sydney 2000

Gary Humble

Re: Performance of Environmental Protection Authority

Dear Sir/Madam,

Having an Environment Protection Authority that acts in the interests of the community and our natural environment is vital for our state. We need a strong and vigilant protector, not a toothless tiger.

It is essential that the EPA be well resourced to:

- competently & effectively enforce compliance with licence or approval conditions;
- defend regulatory policies & actions through law when required;
- and to effectively prosecute offenders.

The water we drink, the air we breathe and the ecosystems which support our well-being and survival are under ever-increasing pressure from population growth and industrial development. Our environment is being destroyed by short-sighted greed and unsustainable activities.

The role of the EPA is crucial to protect, restore and enhance our environment in New South Wales.

Recently various incidents, such as the Orica spills in Newcastle & Botany, Santos' CSG pollution in the Pilliga, Delta Electricity's pollution of the Cox's River and the pollution of local rivers by mines such as Canyon & Centennial Collieries, have highlighted the EPA's failure to regulate or prosecute polluters and stop environmental breaches.

There is a wide perception that the EPA does not act in the public interest but instead caters to the interests of industry and big business. Their title is

The community has raised many specific concerns about giving the EPA funding and legal strength to act effectively. Please make recommendations to ensure that the EPA is capable of effectively putting the environment and healthy communities ahead of the greed & self-interest of polluters.

It is after all the **AUTHORITY to PROTECT the ENVIRONMENT.**

Yours sincerely,

Gary Humble

28 Aug, '14