

**Submission  
No 233**

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

**Name:** Mr Bruce O'Connor

**Date received:** 29/08/2014

---

Dear Sir/Madam,

The environment is the pinnacle of sustenance for life on earth. We all rely on there being sufficient clean water, air and food for our wellbeing and continued survival.

The EPA is currently under-resourced and unable to keep the checks and balances we require as a state and nation, for our continued protection.

This is evidenced by the EPA's inability to respond, in a suitable timeframe, to numerous events in my local area.

Protection of our most precious resource, water, is paramount and it is the duty of government to facilitate this.

New South Wales needs a fearless, adequately funded 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,  
Bruce O'Connor