

**Submission
No 202**

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

Name: Mr Duncan Marshall

Date received: 28/08/2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Extractive and harvesting industries, which use the common resources of the state (and national) populations must be adequately monitored and controlled so that neither the resources are not squandered and the surrounding environment is not damaged.

Whether it is water, air, minerals, coal and gas, timber, sand, or any other resource, there must be balance.

Corporations are proven historically to be driven by profit, frequently with no regard for the environment and continuing resources on which the whole community depends to live. Corporations are frequently very short-sighted.

The resources have present and future value for the whole community, but the total environment has much greater and absolutely vital value as an essential condition of all living and business for the present and future.

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,
Duncan Marshall