

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

Organisation: Byron Environment Centre Inc

Date received: 28/08/2014

Submission: Performance of the EPA

Dear Sir/Madam

The EPA's current creditability is in tatters. The public perception is that there are no meaningful development guidelines that will be effectively enforced by government. Abrogation of responsibility to enforce Koala protection in our forests, because the Forestry Dept "didn't see" the blindingly obvious evidence of Koalas, leads to complete disrespect for the law and for parliament. A 'spare change' fine of \$1500.00 for the radioactive pollution of an aquifers identifies that the govt is acting against the interests of Australians, and gives the rise to the impression that the government is purely acting for the interests of the money in a bag developers. The failure of the EPA to meaningfully manage compliance is resulting in increasingly broad spectrums of our communities turning to mass blockades and direct action. And I say our communities, because they are not yours any more, as there is consistent evidence that you have abandoned us. It is a recognized democratic process for a government to have the legitimate right to make legislative changes, but whatever the public dissent at your changes to legislation, the abrogation of your responsibility to enforce the legislative controls within that legislation can only elicit public contempt for this aberrant version of governance. If there is no effective stand alone, unfettered and adequately funded, EPA gatekeeper, then there is no adequate development process, and no obligation for the residents of NSW to engage in development decisions, or to allow such prejudiced development decisions to proceed. You know the level of public contempt that the NSW Government now bares. Either you now start to build public confidence, or the NSW residents will continue to evolve genuine democratic process', and take genuine representative and responsible decisions to manage development outside of any of your current discredited NSW Government process'. I tell you frankly, there is more NSW residents support for the survival of Koalas, than there is support for the survival of the NSW government.