

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

**Name:** Dr Mary MacGibbon

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Peter Hannam's material (August 26 2014) entitled 'Coal terminal owner accused of treating pollution limits as 'optional' appears to be evidence for economic considerations excessively outweighing environmental impact as anticipated by this 2013 article

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/economy-trumps-environment-in-new-mining-guidelines-20130729-2qu4i.html>.

I am deeply concerned at the lack of representation of the public by our elected so-called 'representatives'.

Massive money and lobbying underpinning various mining and other ventures, with GM crops and Monsanto interests being an example, can result in the relatively silent, trusting and sometimes ill-informed public having their interests overridden. (The ill-informedness can be due to lack of education, lack of media representation, lack of availability of information to the media, each of which is important in a democracy.)

As a lecturer in health sciences at UTS and the University of Sydney I understand particularly the significance of a healthy environment in terms of air, water, food supplies etc, as well as the dependence on our state and federal representatives to balance the interests of very short term economics and some of the financially very powerful lobby groups with the slightly less visible but profoundly important health interests of those they represent.