

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

**Name:** Ms Michelle Rower

**Date received:** 28/08/2014

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Dear Sir/Madam,

New South Wales needs a fearless and independent Environment Protection Authority that puts the interests of the community and natural environment first.

It is essential that the people of NSW have a voice that speaks for them and has the resources available that allow them to do this. Compliance with environmental objectives is essential in maintaining the biodiversity of species our state is unique for. Monies for thorough investigation and prosecution of offenders who do not comply with state environmental laws are vital.

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.

As a conservation officer for my local bird club we consistently deal with issues where people complain about breaches to laws that govern our environment. It is essential that the EPA be allowed to do the job required of it as it has a vital role to play in the protection of the states fauna and flora. Please ensure it has the resources necessary to do this and that it's work can be done so that it is open to scrutiny and free from hints of corruption.

Yours sincerely,  
Michelle Rower