

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

**Name:** Karen & Allen Campbell

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Dear Sir/Madam,

The NSW Environment Protection Authority must be independent of political interference. Big business with a vested interest must have no influence. ICAC has demonstrated the importance of this. The government must resource the EPA adequately to ensure it performs its legislated duties and acts in the interest of the majority of citizens, ordinary people, and their environment.

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 must be able to trust this inquiry to respond positively to community concerns. The EPA must be the protector of our communities through ensuring the environment stays healthy. There is no legitimacy for a government to support polluters over all the people it represents and the environment which has no voice.

Yours sincerely,  
Karen & Allen Campbell