

**Submission  
No 223**

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

**Name:** Mr Pieter Newtown

**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 MOST importantly the natural environment first.

It must therefore 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.

Inadequate funding of the EPA by government is a feeble and underhanded way of attempting to silence the voices of the community and to shirk the moral responsibility to protect the environment. Doing so is a pathetic way of pandering to the polluters merely for their benefit to make big profits at others' expense.

Please make sure the EPA is adequately funded to perform the duties to which it is assigned.

Yours sincerely,  
Pieter Newtown