

**Submission  
No 221**

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

**Name:** Mr Brian McDonald

**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.

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 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.

In addition, it is important that the EPA continues with education programs on litter, washing of cars, stopping sediments from development sites etc. while driving and walking I have noticed a great increase of litter and washing of cars on the roadway and sealed areas together with no sediment controls being provided.

The EPA has failed to protect the groundwater which is one of our main elements of the Environment of this state. The Statements of Environmental Effects which forms part of any development application continually fails to address any of the environmental issues. An enquiry into the Department of Planning and the Land and Environment Court is necessary in regards to their rezoning of the Mowbray Road Precinct, Lane Cove North against the Councils opposition and results of the consultation process. The area is in a declared bush fire prone area, on a steep southern slope, above a bushland containing declared threaten species with a road network that fails to comply with the RFS requirements and fails to comply with the metro. strategy etc.

Yours sincerely,  
Brian McDonald