

**Submission
No 237**

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

Name: Ms Susan Wynn

Date received: 29/08/2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, on the Central Coast recently endured a fire burning in the chitter of a decommissioned coal mine for six months after a bushfire ravaged the area.

the EPA referred us to the National Parks for the status on the air quality and they referred us to the EPA. Air quality was seriously compromised in the surrounding area over a long period of time. where was the EPA?

We have had carcinogenic leaks over Stockton from Orica. where was the EPA?

We are being threatened with more coal trains on the Central Coast and Hunter lines. Is the EPA monitoring the air quality for our residents, flora and fauna? Is it looking at the cumulative effects of these operations?

We believe that even if it had staff who were interested in these issues, it would not have the resources to do the work because it is under-resourced and under-funded.

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.

Yours sincerely,
Susan Wynn