

**Submission  
No 230**

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

**Name:** Ms Jenny Medd

**Date received:** 29/08/2014

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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.

Our natural environment and its conservation has too often, in recent years, been attacked by the short-sighted greed of developers. Protection of flora, fauna, land and water has been made more difficult through ever-diminishing resources and lack of genuine accountability.

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 and over-development. Short-term "economic" gains will not restore what is lost when in the future there is acknowledgement that the wrong thing was allowed. The EPA needs to be resourced and committed to upholding our heritage.

Yours sincerely,  
Jenny Medd