

**Submission
No 216**

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

Name: Ms Sheila Monahan

Date received: 28/08/2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

With a sinking heart and rising concern for the future of my children and grandchildren, I daily read about examples of how 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 very survival.

More than ever New South Wales needs a fearless and independent Environment Protection Authority that puts the interests of the community and natural environment first.

The EPA has an important role to play in protecting, restoring and enhancing the quality of the environment in New South Wales. Unfortunately, it has been unable to regulate or prosecute polluters and stop environmental breaches as evidenced in a number of recent incidents.

NSW has legislation and processes which can result in appropriate conditions being applied to conditions of licence or planning approval.

However, it is patently obvious that at present the EPA is not able to enforce compliance, defend regulatory policies and actions through law when required, or prosecute offenders.

The EPA must be adequately resourced so that it can effectively meet these objectives and act in the public interest.

I want 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,
Sheila Monahan