

**Submission  
No 212**

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

**Name:** Mr Paul Kreuzen

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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. Not an agency that has been compromised by big business.

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. When offenders are found guilty by the court most of the time 5 years later, they then get charged \$1500.00 for polluting Sydney harbor. A person on the street can get fined that amount for breaking a traffic rule. Till we see the day that these polluters are charged \$15 million dollars for their actions of polluting on purpose. The court fines are always a 10000% cheaper option than disposing pollutions in the proper manner. No monitoring on mine sites and factory outlets by government agents is the result of the polluted mess Australia has to deal with now and well in to the future. It is time that the government stops treating this country as a third world country and that politicians get back to realizing that they swore an oath to serve the people rather than political and social climbing. Stop the rot in state and federal government and we will see a lot less pollution in this country.

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,  
Mr. Paul Kreuzen