

Senate Enquiry Submission on Impacts of Air Quality on Health

I live in East Maitland and within 500 metres of the rail line taking trains with uncovered wagons of coal to the Port of Newcastle.

At this point in time there has been only 1 attempt to assess the impact of air quality on the health of people living in the East Maitland area. Monitors have been put in place at random homes and at this time no results have been presented.

I believe we need the Senate enquiry to accurately measure the impacts of coal on our health. At present there is conflicting information regarding monitoring and presentation of results in regional areas. The standards need to be reviewed and updated to assess the current impacts of PM (Particulate Matter) on the public health.

The community is suffering from noise impacts of heavy train movements 24 hours a day, uncovered rail wagons and dust covering playgrounds, homes and schools located near the rail line. Anxiety and respiratory complaints have become a concern for the local doctors in this area.

The Hunter Valley would be an obvious centre for the enquiry to take place as the approval of numerous mines, and with many yet to commence production, impacting on a large population.

Phillip Edwards

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