

# **Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce Report to Government**

## **Public Submission**

From: D Brown

Date: 31 August 2017

Document: Email

### **Dust Management Port Hedland**

I have lived in Port Hedland most of my life coming here at the age of 15. Before iron ore it was a magnificent town, harbour and a wonderful place to live. Then came iron ore and the dust and noise. It forced my mother and many more like her to leave, stealing the grandmother away from my children. We knew no better and stayed on, and for over the next 25 years or so the dust was heavily laced with asbestos, the mining company's always saying there is no problem or we are fixing it but nothing ever happened, just more dust. They tell us now that there is/was no asbestos in it but I have my doubts. The whole of Australia has benefited from the iron ore boom except Port Hedland, we have been devastated.

The fact remains there is a law in place that 50ppm is the standard all over Australia and it is mostly abided by all except Port Hedland. The mining company's monitor their own dust and inform the authority's, how this information is acceptable I will never understand, the data given by the mining companies could very well be fabricated and we would know no better. I can wash my car and it remain clean all day, come nightfall the mining company's put the dry, dusty, fine iron ore through the plant and we get covered in dust, so I wash the car again.

I could go on forever about the injustice we have been through but the fact remains they break the law every day, with local, state and federal government support. The majority of residents in town either work for or are involved with the mining companies and are afraid for their jobs/livelihood. This leaves us locals to rot in the dust, we cannot gather enough numbers to protest due to fear tactics from the mining companies about loss of profits equalling loss of jobs. This has been proven in the recent election with Brendon Grylls. We do not expect the mining companies to cover their stock piles but they can process and ship iron ore with minimal dust. For example: Esperance and Geraldton ports are still making money with up to date dusts suppression. Attempting to run us out of town for their profits is a major injustice, we need your help.

This is Australia. Please be Australian and look after its people instead of the multinationals profit.