

Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce Report to Government

Public Submission

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Date: 2 October 2017

Document: Letter attached to email

I am a long-term resident and business owner in Port Hedland and I'm very concerned regarding the Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce recently being released and made public and the recommendations they are suggesting.

From the report, it is obvious that BHP in particular, seem that they cannot or will not control their dust within their property boundaries. Also from the report it seems that it's just not simple dust that you would expect from farms such as topsoil but appears to be contaminated with heavy metals and maybe extremely harmful to the environment including humans.

I cannot believe that the Task Force are suggesting to re-zone the West End and say that it is an acceptable risk based on population size. So, does that mean its ok to contaminate or kill a few residents but not a lot? How stupid! I have many long-term friends living and working in the West End, I will have to tell them that they are expendable and don't make up the numbers for anyone to worry about them from the Taskforce which includes the Government representatives.

How do these report statistics compare to elsewhere in WA?

The statistics don't actually say the monitors were working 100% of the time. Have they been functioning 100% or have they had downtime when there are no results?

Why doesn't the Department of Environment Regulation collect and monitor the results? Its seems unusual for the industry body to undertake this role, hardly independent.

Where are the Lidar reports gone that were live on the web a few months ago?

I don't see any of the noise reports attached?

The report suggests that more effort is required to reduce dust so now I have been made aware that the street sweepers in BHP have had their hours / week halved. This seems to contradict the effort required to clean up the site?

With the profits these companies make, I don't understand why they can't fix their problems so we can all live and work together in a safe community. There is an apparent offer of hundreds of millions of dollars for the Town of Port Hedland to re-zone from the only member of the task force who gains the most. Maybe this should be declared to the State Administrative Tribunal for review?

There is a really easy fix here, have the dust producers clean up their show and minimise dust on others, this will in turn allow them to expand and make more money and then we can leave the zoning as it is and the people of the West End won't be the losers with property devaluations, health damage to their families and can be left alone to get on with their lives.

It is obvious that the Task Force is all one sided and not worried about the Town. It should be shut down and started again with real independence.