

Research Director, CWP select committee

Parliament House

George Street Brisbane Qld 4000

14 November 2016

To the Research Director

Clean Air Wynnum is a group of residents from the Wynnum, Manly, Tingalpa, Murarrie, and Hemmant. Many of us live close to the rail line which carries uncovered coal wagons to the Port of Brisbane. We are not funded, and not politically aligned. Our purpose is to protect our health and the wellbeing of our community.

We note that the terms of reference for the Select Committee enquiry are about mine workers and their exposure to pneumoconiosis. We do not know whether through exposure to coal dust from the trains and from the massive coal stockpiles at the Port of Brisbane, we could contract pneumoconiosis. However, we do remember that there was once a view that asbestosis could only be contracted by workers, not by workers' families.

Therefore we make this submission that the regulation of coal dust include coal dust in transport and storage not just in the mines. Regarding this submission, we make the following statements:

- Coal dust is carcinogenic; there is no safe level of exposure and this particulate pollution is small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs.
- The coal stockpiles at the port of Brisbane are not covered and are subject to prevailing winds, which in season reach more than 30 knots. The coal dust is readily wind-mobilised, especially during loading and unloading operations. In northerly winds, the dust blows back to Wynnum and Manly.
- Coal wagons whether they are full or empty are not covered, and the dust travels with the wind, and is stirred again by train movements along the track.
- Coal dust particles are detected at the government and industry air monitoring sites located along the rail line and at the coal stockpiles at the port
- The coal train line travels through many communities, past backyards, along its path of nearly 200 kilometres from the mine at Acland in the Darling Downs to the Port of Brisbane.
- There are thousands of children in schools and child care centres as well as frail elderly people in nursing homes which are located a kilometre or less than from the coal train line.
- Coal dust travels with the wind. The smaller the particles, the higher and further they may travel.
- People living close to the train line or stockpiles, especially children, elderly, frail and unwell people have limited capacity to withstand this particulate pollution.

Mary Slivka

For Clean Air Wynnum

26 Burringbar Street

Hemmant QLD 4174

Ph 3890 1739 or 0408 809 197