

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 559

asked on Tuesday, 20 August 2013

MR JUDGE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Federal Government's Community Affairs References Committee report regarding the impacts on health of air quality in Australia—

Will the Minister confirm whether the Newman Government will now rely upon real-time data of air quality to monitor coal wagon fleets travelling to and from the Port of Brisbane through populated suburbs and communities, including within Yeerongpilly Electorate, in order to protect and ensure public health?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government will use real-time real time air quality data to monitor the air emissions from coal wagons travelling through, to and from the Port of Brisbane. In fact, the Queensland Government has already established a cross-agency working group, and a dust monitoring program for the Western-Metropolitan rail system has already commenced.

The monitoring program is being performed by independent air quality experts from the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Sciences Branch of the Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts. The monitoring program is designed to intensely monitor the rail system for a short period and will then incorporate the installation of a continuous monitoring program. Monitoring is being conducted at six locations including Oakey, Willowburn (Toowoomba), Dinmore, Tennyson, Fairfield and Coorparoo. The monitoring results will be used to assess the air quality impacts of the coal trains and inform any future actions to be undertaken by the Queensland Government.

Results and further details about the monitoring programs can be accessed through the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's website at <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/air/coal-dust/index.html>.