

Question on Notice

No. 79

Asked on Wednesday, 5 February 2020

MR L MILLAR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the possible health hazards entailed for residents of the Bowen Basin—

Will the Minister advise if the air quality in the towns of Blackwater, Bluff and Emerald is permanently monitored by her department for the level of coal dust particulates?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) has been continuously monitoring levels of PM₁₀ (particles less than 10 micrometres in diameter) and PM_{2.5} (particles less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter) in Blackwater since 13 February 2019. Blackwater monitoring data is publicly available on the Queensland Government website at <https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/air-quality/>, with data updated hourly.

DES has established a new air monitoring station at Emerald. Continuous monitoring of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} at this site commenced on 19 February 2020. The Emerald monitoring data is also available on the Queensland Government website.

DES has required the Bluff Coal Mine operator to undertake monitoring of PM₁₀, total suspended particles and dust deposition in the Bluff township for a 12 month period since 22 October 2019.