

# Port Hedland Air Quality and Noise Management Plan

Port Hedland Dust Taskforce  
www.dsd.wa.gov.au/PHDTF

## Fact Sheet 1 Overview

The Port Hedland Air Quality and Noise Management Plan, along with the Western Australian Government's Pilbara Cities project, will help ensure that Port Hedland continues its development as a major regional centre and an attractive place to live, work and invest.

It provides a strategy for future land use that balances the interests of Port Hedland residents and businesses with the export industries which are vital to the town and to Western Australia.

The Plan sets goals and allocates responsibilities for managing the impact of dust and noise on people and property, and for monitoring and managing dust and noise levels.

### Why have a plan?

The plan for Port Hedland's future accommodates its increasing importance to Western Australia, both as a regional population centre, and as one of the biggest resource export ports in the world.

The town of Port Hedland and the port have co-existed for more than 100 years. Since the 1960s when bulk export of iron ore exports began, dust and noise have become an issue. In recent years, the volume of iron ore exports from Port Hedland increased and further expansions are planned or underway.

While there is no clear scientific evidence of increased health risks from Port Hedland dust, long term exposure to excessive dust can potentially have health impacts and excessive noise is disruptive to life and work.

Industry growth increases the likelihood of dust and noise impacts, mainly on the West End, Port Hedland's traditional heart.

The Port Hedland Air Quality and Noise Management Plan will help manage these impacts, reduce risks to residents, ensure that the town continues to grow and give the West End a new lease of life.

### What is the plan?

**Health risk management** – the Department of Health will continue to review environmental health information, and assess and advise on risks (see Fact Sheet 2).

**Environmental management** – the plan recommends a maximum allowable level of dust. The Department of Environment and Conservation will work with industry to develop an integrated air monitoring network and noise management controls to keep the community informed and protected (see Fact Sheet 3).

**Land use** – the Town of Port Hedland and the Department of Planning will implement planning guidelines and building standards that favour development of the West End for short-term accommodation and non-residential purposes.

Future residential, schools and aged care facility development will be focussed at the eastern end of Port Hedland (see Fact Sheet 4).

A development plan for Port Hedland's long term growth as a vibrant, sustainable regional community will be delivered, as part of the Government's Pilbara Cities vision.

This plan will revitalise the commercial life of the West End and encourage future residential and community growth in the East End and South Hedland.

**Industry's role** – the Port Hedland Port Authority and exporters will continue implementing new and better technology and practices to manage and monitor dust and noise emissions (see Fact Sheet 5).

**Governance** – The Port Hedland Air Quality and Noise Management Plan clearly allocates responsibility for implementing, monitoring and enforcing regulatory standards, land use planning and industry initiatives (see Fact Sheet 6).

### Who made this plan?

The Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce was established by the Western Australian Government in 2009 to develop a comprehensive approach to managing dust and noise, improving air quality and managing impacts.

The Taskforce, which reports to the Premier, includes representatives of:

- the Town of Port Hedland;
- the Port Hedland Port Authority;
- iron ore exporters including BHP Billiton Iron Ore, FMG and Hancock Iron Ore; and
- Government agencies including Health, Planning, and Environment and Conservation.

It is chaired by the Department of State Development.

The Western Australian Government has approved the plan and the Port Authority and ten port users have formed the Port Hedland Industries Council to deliver industry cooperation in implementing it.

