

Port Hedland Air Quality and Noise Management Plan

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

Fact Sheet 5 Industry's Role

Increasing industry activity close to residential areas in Port Hedland's West End has re-emphasised the importance of effectively managing air and noise emissions in the region.

Industries using Port Hedland Port have a major role in ensuring the success of the Port Hedland Air Quality and Noise Management Plan, including controlling dust and noise emissions from their activities, monitoring air quality and participating in the town's future development.

Improving performance

Industries using Port Hedland Port have been actively working to reduce dust and noise as mineral exports, especially iron ore, are growing rapidly. Initiatives have included:

- compliance with regulatory licence conditions and commitments;
- increasing monitoring of emissions to improve understanding of origin and causes of excessive emissions;
- where practicable, establishing or relocating dust and noise causing activities away from the town area; and
- incorporating advanced dust suppression design and technology into ore handling equipment and practices.

Industry working together

As a member of the local community, industry recognises it is a key player in managing the environment of Port Hedland.

As part of industry's commitment to the community, key port users came together to establish the Port Hedland Industries Council (PHIC)

in 2009. Its aim is to provide a more coordinated approach in considering and addressing cumulative issues relating to industry activity.

PHIC's initial focus will be to improve industry cooperation and coordination of air quality monitoring and management, by:

- developing innovative approaches to cooperatively managing air quality issues in the Port Hedland area;
- setting strategic objectives to manage and monitor air quality in the Port Hedland area;
- establishing a real-time dust monitoring website that can be accessed by the community; and
- contributing to the scientific understanding of air quality in Port Hedland.

PHIC will manage a coordinated industry response to matters affecting Port Hedland. Members are committed to information sharing to better understand potential impacts and develop a whole of industry approach to management.

Objectives of PHIC

- a) to promote the role of industry operating in the Port Hedland area within the community;
- b) to promote high standards of business ethics and work practices in industry, operating in the Port Hedland area;
- c) to collect and collate data relating to the environmental impact of industry in and around the Port Hedland area; and
- d) to provide a coordinated approach to cumulative related issues and subsequent delivery of information related to industry operations in Port Hedland.

Membership of PHIC

PHIC has eleven foundation members from different companies with operations or activities in Port Hedland:

- Atlas Iron
- BHP Billiton Iron Ore
- Birla Nifty
- Consolidated Minerals (Pilbara Manganese)
- Fortescue Metals Group
- Hancock Prospecting PL
- Newcrest Mining PL
- North West Iron Ore Alliance
- P&O Automotive and General Stevedoring
- Port Hedland Port Authority
- Process Minerals International

Dust Management

In addition to industrial sources of air emissions, there are sources of air contaminants from non-industrial emissions such as wild fires and remote dust storms. It is important that Government, industry and the community work together to develop monitoring and management of air quality in Port Hedland that addresses this.

The development of an air quality network in Port Hedland will give the community and industry a greater understanding of the industrial and natural contributions to air quality in Port Hedland. Further opportunities to improve air quality will come from PHIC's coordinated approach to dust management.

PHIC Chair
Mr Craig Wilson
08 9173 0021

