

Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce Report to Government

Public Submission

From: L & R Brown

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RE: Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce

My wife and I have been living in Port Hedland and have raised our family here. She has business intown and I have been an employee with one of the members of the Taskforce for over 20 years

From your long overdue report to be released to the public, it fascinates me to the point of great concern.

It appears that the residents and businesses of the West End have been exposed to airborne heavy metal contamination and obviously I have been exposed on a daily basis working for BHP in confined spaces. It would be obvious that BHP don't care about employees or the communities where they establish themselves. But then according to the report its ok to harm a few of us but not harm a lot of people – this train of thought is unbelievable!

What about the waterways around here, they are obviously being contaminated as well. I remember when the reef across the road from my house had crayfish – none there now!

The report mentions that the West End should be Short Stay zoned, no schools or old folk's homes, why? According to the Town Planning Scheme 5 a Short Stay is 3 months. So does the tasks force want to make the whole West End in motels accommodation, how insane is that!

Why do the residents get it in the neck again for the sake of big business? It's not that we are against development but you can't just bully the little people into submission all the time and offer the Local Council money to make this happen.

The health report mentioned should be attached to this document or is there more to hide? Where is the noise report?

It seems that BHP cannot control their dust problem but appears others can, how does that happen?

How does these report statistics compare to elsewhere in WA. The levels of dust reported are greater than recommendations by the World Health Organisation!

The Task Force is not independent, doesn't represent the community and should be kicked out. The Government needs to roll up their sleeves and get in there and find out what is really going on here.

The government need to change the zoning back to residential and protect our properties and families.

With all the information to digest that has been presented and I am certain there are more reports hidden away from public eyes, I request that the time for consultation be extended and we reserve the right to make further submissions as required.