

Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce Report to Government

Public Submission

From: A Wood & T Hebbard

Date: 6 October 2017

Document: Email

Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce – Community submission A Wood & T Hebbard

My partner and I have lived in Port Hedland for over 35 years and as ratepayers we have a vested interest and concern for the lack of dust control being carried out by exporters at the Port.

We currently live in South Hedland but grew up as children in the Cooke Point area and we know the environment around Port Hedland is sceptical to dust and dusty days, but we also know the difference between dust and Iron ore dust that doesn't shift easily off your house, clothes, feet and car.

We have definitely noticed an increase in the dust that covers the town, and believe 80% of it is from increased export of iron ore.

We are also concerned that if the West End area is forced into a special control area this will destroy the town's Heritage and character. This decision would also further ostracise the relationship locals have with the Mining companies and government.

Property owners located in the West End have limited rights to replace or develop their properties and this has happened without proper consultation. Some of these landowners have been in the West End before Mining exports started and will be there after it stops.

Further concerns are that the Dust Management taskforce report was not clear about the outcomes for the following:

1. What assistance does the Port Hedland Port Authority and the Mining companies offer to Local & State
1. Governments to reduce the dust problem escaping from their current and future exports?
2. Why are there no restrictions in place to control the dust when data has shown it is over, shouldn't
3. Australian standards apply here too?
4. Other ports and operations elsewhere in Australia (World?) are controlling this problem, why is it so difficult for Port Hedland port operations?
5. Why is enclosing the mining operations (conveyor belts and piles into sheds) not an option?
6. If the dust is such a health hazard why are workers at Nelson Point and Finucane Island operations not wearing safety protection or breathing apparatus, as they work under duster conditions that the town residents?
7. Why does the dust monitoring group appointed to collect data not have a community representative or residents in the working group to reflect true and transparent findings?

As residents we look forward to a reasonable and fair outcome for the town and want the community to work together.

Please keep us informed of any further progress.

Thank you & Regards