

2019



Air quality Port Hedland

PHIC has contributed to the scientific understanding of air quality in Port Hedland since 2010 - establishing, managing and reporting on the Port Hedland Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network (the Network).

MONITORING NETWORK HANDOVER

In line with the Taskforce 2017 recommendations, PHIC is currently working with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) to transition the management of the Network to the regulator.

The transition to DWER is expected to take several months to complete.

As an industry group, PHIC and its members, bring substantial expertise in terms of dust mitigation and environmental knowledge. Recognising this, a steering

committee comprised of representatives of PHIC's dust working group and DWER staff, has been established to guide the transition.

"PHIC and its members are committed to working with the regulator as it seeks to implement its 'road map' for improved industry practices."

A DECADE OF DUST MANAGEMENT

PHIC is committed to implementing leading dust mitigation practices. PHIC member companies bring substantial expertise, incorporating independent scientists to undertake peer reviews. This has delivered a coordinated approach and the sharing of information, knowledge and innovations.

Industry has been working with relevant government departments, through the Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce for the past decade. We are committed to continuing to work with the government and

the community to balance the interests of West End residents and businesses, and those of the export industries; which are vital to the town, the state and the nation.

PHIC partners operate under a Part V environmental licence as part of the Environmental Protection Act, which sets out requirements to manage, monitor and report dust levels.

PHIC and its members are committed to working with the regulator as it seeks to implement its 'road map' for improved industry practices.

WHAT IS BEING ASSESSED?

Dust is a general term used to describe microscopic particles suspended in the air. The most common metrics for measuring particulate matter is PM10 and PM2.5.

The Network measures these particles along with meteorological conditions including wind speed and wind direction.



PM10 RESULTS 2017/18

During 2017/18 dust levels remained within the Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce's specified interim guideline for PM10 of 70 µg/m³ with 10 allowable exceedances per annum, with the Taplin Street monitoring station recording nine exceedances.

The overall performance is consistent with that of previous years. A detailed analysis of PM10 data and meteorological conditions

for the nine exceedance days at Taplin indicated that:

- four exceedance days were attributed to industry activity
- three exceedance days were attributed to industry combined with elevated regional dust
- one exceedance day was attributed to industry and a local non-industry source of dust
- one exceedance day was attributed to a local non-industrial source.

“Industry continues to improve its performance on dust management despite export tonnage steadily increasing over the past few years.”

TAPLIN STREET TREND ANALYSIS IN RELATION TO INDUSTRY GROWTH

The levels of dust recorded in the West End have been relatively stable and within the guideline for exceedances over a 12-month period for several years now, despite iron ore exports through the Port of Port Hedland increasing from 280 million tonnes in 2013 to 520 million tonnes in 2017/18.

