

GAS WATCH 217.

Government fails to issue “HEALTH ALERTS” when dust pollution exceeds hazardous levels.

What are the coal mines doing in the dead of night?

Are they failing to use proper dust suppression in the dark when no-one can see their filthy haze?

Look at these OEH monitoring station results over last 24 hours:

- **Camberwell - 12 midnight - 172.5** micrograms of dust per cubic metre.
- **Maison Dieu near Singleton – 1 pm - 133.4**
- **Maison Dieu – 2 pm - 119.4** (not below 100 between midnight and 2 am)
- **Mt. Thorley, near Bulga – 10 pm – 92.**

100 micrograms per cubic metre is defined by the Government as “Hazardous”.

No health alerts were issued this morning because the “rolling average” didn’t reach dangerous levels, although individual readings were hazardous to the health of humans and animals.

That’s now three days and nights in a row we have been breathing in dust which could be doing irreversible damage to our lungs and the developing lungs of our kids.

Mines should have an automatic shut down procedure when dust levels reach the “poor” level of 50. They must never be allowed to reach the “hazardous” level of over 100.

Monitoring is just not good enough. Action must be taken NOW to preserve our health.

At least the O’Farrell Government has endorsed the various exclusion zones for coal seam methane activity in areas of the Hunter and adjacent to residential zones, and we are simply awaiting that endorsement to be made into law. This will go some way to stemming the cumulative increase in dust-saturated air.



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