

GAS WATCH 222.

Hunter residents are at serious risk of lung disease and cancer as dust levels reach record levels.

This must be a new record for filthy air in the Hunter.

The residents of the Hunter were forced to breathe filthy air on 1st September at 3 am when the P₁₀ dust particles in the air reached 348.1 micro grams per cubic meter.

And we're effectively unrepresented by a Government which appears to be waiting for victims to emerge before it acts.

Will you or your children be the first victims? Research says it is only a matter of time. With all the evidence before him, what on earth could Barry O'Farrell say if it does come to this.

This is a physical assault on the people of the Hunter Valley.

100 is considered by the EPA to be Hazardous to the health of humans and animals.

300 is described by medical professionals as ***“extremely dangerous to lungs and may even cause cancer induction”***.

Mines must be forced to cease operations in any situation where dust levels exceed 50 at their site, and to stay closed until the dust drops below that level. Any air containing over 50 is considered poor quality.

Human beings should not be subjected to this assault upon their bodies and their health.

Australian Mining reports that the EPA aims to achieve an 80% reduction in dust by August 2014. And even with an 80% reduction, that leaves the dust in the air on the 348.1 reading at 70. *“Very poor quality”* air. This is not good enough. Action is needed now!

The EPA says “Dust generated from haul roads within the mines is the biggest source of fine dust particles on most mine sites, contributing about 40% of total emissions.” Loading, dumping and moving overburden is also a major source of dust emissions at coal mines. **Simple. Stop hauling, loading, dumping and moving overburden and coal when dust concentration in the air reaches 50.**

During the period from 31st August to 11th September there have been a number of “Health Alerts” issued by virtue of the content of dust in the air with readings such as 108.5, 158.5, 200.7, 173.9, 134.2. All these in light winds and before any bushfires. And the vast majority of these in the middle of the night when no-one can see the filth in the air. It is sinister to note that the dust figures in the middle of the day were in single digit figures.

Now is the time to act, not in a year's time.

Now is the time for the dust to be stopped, not in the future by way of a class action by the sick of the Hunter Valley.



www.huntervalleyprotectionalliance.com

11th September, 2013. Contact: Graeme Gibson 65791062