

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Submission to the Senate Committee Inquiry into the Impacts of Air Quality on Health
Date: Saturday, 9 March 2013 10:26:04 AM

Dear Committee

I am a resident of Mackay who has concerns about how coal dust is affecting us now and how it will denigrate our quality of life. We are seeing real affects of the Terminal now. It is difficult to understand how NQBP are controlling these affects when they have had limited accountability to the public.

Personally, I have had symptoms of coal dust when living at Louisa Creek in my father's residence. Whilst living there I suffered from sinus symptoms on a daily basis, something that I only suffer from now on the rare occasion when I have a cold. There is very little information in the public domain on the affects of coal dust. Considering that we are living beside these terminals and that there are plans to double our exposure there needs to be more research on the current affects of the terminal on our health and how this will affect our health when the exposure is increased.

The other personal story I would like to share is the impact that NQBP has had on the local community at Louisa Creek. I understand that the Senate enquiry is about the impacts of the coal dust on our health. However, the credibility of the governing body that is protecting the Mackay residents is in question. They, in my opinion, have not acted as good Corporate citizens nor are they reportable to an independent authority of an Ombudsman. The Louisa Creek residents have had limited resources available to them when they are dealing with this Corporation. My father has lived at Louisa Creek for 30 years. When he was forced to sell his retirement property due to ill health, we had no option but to accept the Corporation's offer as they have effectively closed the property market at Louisa Creek for over a decade now. I have real concerns that a similar situation is going to occur at Timberlands if the Dudgeon Point terminals go ahead. Also, it is difficult to accept that they will have the residents of Mackay's best interest at hand when decisions are made.

There has been visible evidence of coal dust at Louisa Creek since my father has lived there. He has also suffered from sinus for as long as I can remember. What I have been reading is that the dust that cannot be seen has the potential to cause the most damage, so it can only proceed from there that there is no level of coal dust that is safe.

It would be beneficial if there is a public hearing so that we can have a more informed public debate about this matter. There would be so many other stories out there similar to mine that we can share with the Senate.

Surely, any further Terminal expansions should be put on hold until we truly understand what the current impacts are and what problems we will be creating for the future.

Julie Turner