

Submission to Senate Community Affairs Committee investigating the impacts of health of air quality in Australia.

8/03/2013

From:

Glenn Norman Beutel

I live approximately 3 kilometres from an open cut coal mine operated by New Hope at Acland, Qld.

The company is proposing to expand the mine to within 1 km of my home.

It is concerning that (to my knowledge) there is no effective, meaningful, publically available baseline or ongoing permanent monitoring of air quality here from the impacts of mining and blast activities. Of extra concern is the lack of data on PM 2.5 or smaller particulate matter nor its composition.

Coal and other particulate matter are visible on all surfaces outside my home including furniture, windows, mouldings, roof and rain tanks. The interior of my home is also affected and visible coal dust on furniture, curtains and all surfaces, even walls. Parked cars acquire a film of black dust after a few hours in Acland and its surrounds.

Also of concern is the direct and indirect impact of air quality on wildlife, biodiversity and especially the koala population. The air quality affects my drinking water through dust contamination of my roof and so rain tank collection.

Yours sincerely

Glenn Beutel