

Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group

“Clean Air Quality Statement - Victoria”



A community-based group looking to address Environmental issues affecting Singleton Shire residents

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Author: Dr Neville Hodkinson PhD

We seek identification as to what is making our Children and Community Sick so they can be mitigated by OH&S Compliance Orders.

SSHEG Focus on Health

SSHEG is Not Anti Mining or Anti Power Stations

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“Clean Air for All Victorians; Air Quality Statement 2018”

We submit the SSHEG “*Clean Air NSW Consultation Paper 2017*” and our previous two SSHEG Submissions to the Senate Committee March 2013 “*The Impact on Health of Air Quality in Australia*” for the consideration regarding the “*Clean Air for all Victorians; Air Quality Statement*”.

We believe there is a direct and overarching synergy between the Air Quality Health related Disease Impacts for Victoria and NSW. Specifically the Air Quality fiasco in the Latrobe Valley and the Community Disease associations surveyed by SSHEG in the Hunter Valley in 2008 are directly intertwined.

Specifically in **Attachment 2 Pages 28-30** SSHEG records the 2010 Community Disease associations with poor Air Quality.

We further identified that since 2013, the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2015 and 2016 has spelled out the pivotal role of “National Health Authorities need to play” during its deliberations on Air Quality and Human noncommunicable diseases – notably cardiovascular diseases, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

and lung cancer, including the increased risks for acute respiratory infections.

Now in 2018 the WHO focus is on “Air Pollution, Particulate Matter – especially PM2.5 and Diesel Exhausts” both short and long term Exposure – their Disease Associations are profound.

SSHEG has consistently outlined that the averaging of Air Monitoring data (as rolling averages; annual and daily averages as the current Industry EPA compliance approach) removes the data intelligence of the direct Human reaction that Residents experience from Poor Air Quality Drifting Patterns exposure.

As a consequence it is just as important to recognise the day, afternoon and night time Maximum, minimum, average and standard deviation based on 1-5 minute Air Pollution Monitoring Data to understand the actual exposure that Residents are exposed too.

When it comes to hour by hour Measurement of the Asthma Health Impact of Pollens, Spores, Fungi, Biological materials and Organisms in Australia, this has basically been ignored since 2010. Perhaps recent Asthma events in Victoria will now allow authorities to be better placed to incorporate this Health Impact understanding by establishing “**A Pollen Calendar**” along the lines outlined in **SSHEG Attachment 2 pages 18 & 19** and extracts below.

Although contrary to current Medical thinking, Pollen, Spores and Mould hourly monitoring incorporated into our Air Quality understanding is sadly overdue to complete the Human Disease picture.

“Perhaps only the Westmead Millennium Institute is equipped to comment. Certainly, they “have a growing database of Pollen and Mould counts including on NSW Central Coast where the aerobiological data is being used in conjunction with the Division of General Practice – based Asthma Study” (2003); including correlation with prevailing Meteorological conditions. New Zealand for example provide a Pollen Calendar, while Spain’s Allergy alert systems are far more elaborate.

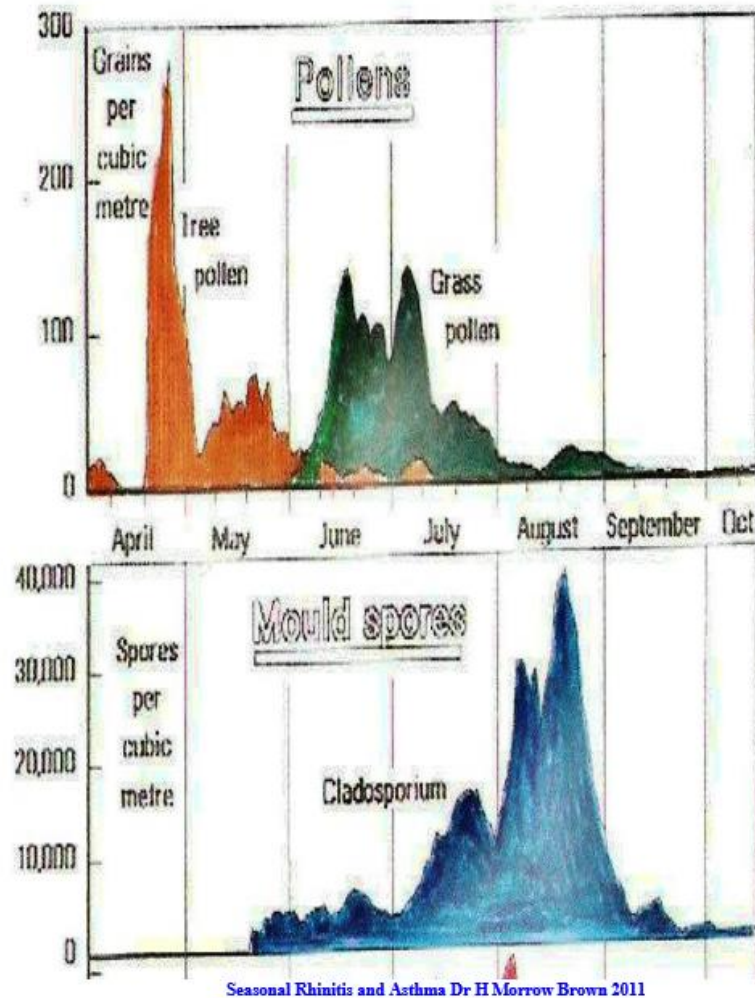
All need to be continually remember that 50% of the Singleton Shire Community concern relates to Asthma, particularly in Children.

from Coal Mining and Power Stations.”

A Pollen calendar would identify the seasonal release, and this could be reinforced by Real Time measurement to dynamically capture the actual release time and concentration, which alter, for example, after rain periods.

Pollens, Spores Moulds, Fungi, etc., as typically wind pollinated types all become airborne, and when inhaled can cause allergic reactions to persons sensitive to certain types. Some Fresh Pollens burst on contact with water and spew out tiny one micron granules that are easily Inhaled.

Simplified Pollen Calendar is Illustrated.



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It is hoped that the Victorian Clean Air Summit goes beyond the superficial prioritising of Air Quality Improvements which are presently focused on “*Wood Smoke and Bachburning*”, but rather involved proactive Air Pollution Mitigation Measures and Controls that directly incorporate the Air Quality Road Map and Tools detailed by World Health Organisation in 2016.

Attachment 3 entitled “*NSW EPA Clean Air Summit – Survey Results*” for its part, outlines the Consultation as of 22 September 2017, while Stakeholders, especially the Community eagerly await meaningful government action which address the many and varied Air Pollution and associated Community Health issues detailed in the hundreds of submissions.

SSHEG **Attachment 1 pages 22 and 23** provides our General response to the NSW Clean Air Consultative Paper; being also directly applicable in Victoria.

Thanking you in anticipation of your acknowledgement.

Dr Neville Hodkinson PhD

Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group

Extract of the Four(4) accompanying Attachments of this SSHEG Submission are included.

Without prejudice

Attachment 1

Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group

“SSHEG Clean Air NSW Consultation 2017”

HEG



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NSW Environment Protection Authority and
Office of Environment and Heritage on behalf of the State of NSW
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PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232

“Clean Air NSW Consultation Paper Jan 2017”

This SSHEG Submission focuses upon the role that NSW Health should play in guiding the Air Quality debate in Australia including NSW, and the pivotal role expected from NSW EPA.

At present NSW Health and Environmental Health has over the years been progressively sidelined in both Legislation and the scope of Government Acts and Ministerial Air Quality responsibilities, to the extent that SSHEG Air Quality concerns in the Singleton Shire in 2008 led to the forced inclusion of Environmental Health voices to be heard in NSW Government.

Today in 2017 while much has been achieved Internationally in the recognition of the associations between Air Quality and Human Diseases, Loss of Lifetime, Morbidity and Mortality by World Health Organisation (WHO) in Oct 2013, it remains that Residents perception in certain areas are that NSW Health remains the poor relative in the Air Quality improvement decision making processes in NSW.

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Attachment 2

SINGLETON **S**HIRE **H**EALTHY **E**NVIRONMENT **G**ROUP

“The impact on Health of Air Quality in Australia”



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SSHEG Focus On Health

Senate Committee Submission March 2013

Submission Summary covering letter

“The Impact on Health of Air Quality in Australia”

This Senate Submission generally relies upon SSHEG documents prepared since 2008 that capture the extent of the Pollution Issues unearthed by the Singleton Shire Community. Eight Topic areas are outlined below together with the SSHEG Member contribution and the List of Reference Documents which form part of this submission. *Separate to this Senate Submission, individual SSHEG members are expected to also further detail Air Quality Community Health issues.*

Five Years after the Community attended a Public Meeting at Singleton in 2008 concerned at the Sickness in the Community associated with the quickening pace of Open Cut Mining, the perception remains that our Health concerns are not being addressed or understood.

There are no effective Pollution Standards with regards Residents Health.

Year by Year Pollution levels rise.

There remains no acceptable Solution or Pollution Mitigation plans.

Focus remains on Dust Pollution, not Plume Gases, Vapours & Noise.

Best Practice Environment Control is a Word not an Action.

Attachment 2a

SINGLETON SHIRE HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT GROUP

“The impact on Health of Air Quality in Australia”



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SSHEG Focus On Health

Senate Committee Submission March 2013

Supplementary Submission Summary covering letter

“The Impact on Health of Air Quality in Australia”

A Review of the current understanding of the known Air Quality Pollutants by SSHEG has exposed the recently Internationally Medically recognised Health dangers of Diesel Exhaust Pollutants.

Specifically, the 24 year investigation into the Toxicity of Diesel Exhaust Pollution from 1988 resulted in June 2012 after a one week Expert Review of Medical Research that identified environmental factors that can increase the risk of human cancer; with the Group1 “-Carcinogenic to humans” is a cause of lung Cancer and also noted a positive association with an increased risk of Bladder Cancer.(Attachment S25) **Ten nitroarenes found in diesel engine exhaust were also evaluated.**

There are a range of Diesel Exhaust Particulate Matter (Attachment S26) and Attachment S27 shows the expected Human Health Risks from this List of Toxic Pollutants found in Diesel Exhaust.

It is the Occupational Safety of Diesel Machinery in Underground Mining that initially focused attention on the Dangers of Carbon Monoxide in Exhaust Fumes, however the complex nature of the Diesel Exhaust Fine Particulate Matter even at low concentrations emerged as the real Danger to Miners Health and particularly Lung Cancer.

Attachment 3



Clean Air Summit: Survey Results

Following the Clean Air Summit on 27 June 2017, the EPA sought the views of attendees and stakeholders via an on-line survey about the management of air quality. These views form important input to the EPA's development of a 10-year strategy for managing air quality in NSW.

The information below summarises the responses of participants to the questions in the survey.

This summary does not represent the views of the EPA, nor is it a complete record of stakeholder views.

Q1 Which group/s do you identify yourself with?*

<i>Answered question</i>	160
<i>Skipped question</i>	0
Group/s	Response (%)*
Member of community	41
NSW State Government	22
Industry/ Business	16
Research/ academic organisation	12
NGO/ Community/ Advocacy group	11
NSW Local Council	8
Other (specified)	4

* Respondents could select multiple options

Q2 Please select your location in NSW

<i>Answered question</i>	160
<i>Skipped question</i>	0
Location	Response (%)
NSW Greater Metropolitan Region	66
NSW Regional	23
State-wide	6
Other (specified)	6

Q3 What sources of emissions are you most interested in? (Select all that apply)*

<i>Answered question</i>	153
<i>Skipped question</i>	7
Emission Source	Response (%)*
Wood smoke	61
Transport and fuels	48
Coal mining activities	46
Coal transport	39
Power stations	38
Non-road diesel engines	37
Industry in general	37
Hazard reduction burning	37
Diesel locomotives	35
Shipping	28
Waste related facilities (eg, landfill dust and odours)	27
Agricultural burning	25
Small petrol engines	24
Concerned about air pollution but not a specific source	18
Not concerned about air pollution	1

* Respondents could select multiple options

Other comments related to air quality issues associated with:

- proposed Western Sydney airport (multiple)
- wood smoke emissions in Armidale region (multiple)
- proposed Waste to Energy facility at Eastern Creek (multiple)
- coal seam gas infrastructure
- burning of rubbish waste and green waste
- aircraft
- lead from mining and smelting
- fireworks
- indoor gas appliances
- dust from agricultural activities/sources
- herbicides.