



Mr Tony Dwyer
Group Manager - Approvals and Environment
Whitehaven Coal Limited
PO Box 600
GUNNEDAH NSW 2380

Via Email Only: tdwyer@whitehavencoal.com.au

15/05/2020

Dear Mr Dwyer

Sunnyside Coal Mine – PA 06_0308
High HVAS dust levels for Quarter 1 2020 at Sunnyside Coal Mine

I refer to your incident report (MP06_0308-PA-2) submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (the Department) on 28 April 2020 in relation to exceedances of the HVAS PM₁₀ 24h limit of 50 µg/m³ during Q1 2020 on 6 and 9 January and 2 February 2020 on the property Illilli at the Sunnyside Coal Mine (SCM).

The Department acknowledges that the prevailing wind conditions on 6 January 2020 make it unlikely the monitor was influenced by SCM. The Department acknowledges that site operations on this date were modified including using lower dumps and shutting down for 0.5 hours. This result must still be considered in annual averaging.

The Department acknowledges that air quality alerts from The Office of Environment and Heritage were received on 9 January 2020 for the North West slopes region, indicating that national standards for PM₁₀ has been exceeded. The Department tentatively accepts the exceedance on 9 January 2020 as the result of an extraordinary event but will await confirmation of the date as a regional event in the Summer 2019-20 Namoi North West Slopes Region report. The Department acknowledges that site operations on this date were modified and that 150,000L of water was used for dust suppression.

The Department acknowledges that the exceedance on 2 February 2020 was unlikely to be influenced by SCM as it was a Sunday and SCM was non-operational.

Please ensure these events are discussed in the next Annual Review.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact James Epstein, Senior Compliance Officer, on (02) 6575 3419 or via email to compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Heidi Watters
Team Leader Northern
Compliance
As nominee of the Planning Secretary