

Lung impact

Appendix 5

KEEPING TRACK

Hunter schools located within 500 metres of coal rail corridor

School Distance (m) Enrolments

Aberdeen Public	160	208
Abermain Public	188	212
Adamstown Public	479	235
All Saints College		
St Mary's Campus	125	632
Argenton Public	21	53
Awaba Public	208	29
Bellbird Public	333	245
Booragul Public	438	267
Braxton Public	438	330
Callaghan College Waratah Campus	250	507
Cardiff North Public	521	126
Cessnock High	83	595
Cessnock Public	333	320
Charlton Christian College	0	610
Denman Public	140	212
Dora Creek Public	313	136
Dungog High	567	645
Dungog Public	429	203
East Maitland Public	333	543
Fassifern Public	0	58
Francis Greenway High	188	812
Greta Public	458	206
Hunter School of Performing Arts	125	1164
Hunter Wetlands Centre	250	0
Islington Public	208	75
Kotara School	188	22
Kotara South Public School	271	258
Kurri Kurri High	604	815
Lake Macquarie High	500	508
Maitland Grossman High	292	1255
Maitland High	417	856
Maitland Public	230	300
Martins Creek Public	82	16
Merewether High	479	1090
Metford Public	229	318
Morisset High	15	836
Morisset Public	458	239
Murrumbidgee Public	364	51
Muswellbrook High	257	778
Muswellbrook South Public	200	396
Scone Grammar	200	600

School	Distance (m)	Enrolments
Scone High	425	444
Scone Public	0	508
Singleton Heights Public	396	622
St Columba's Primary School, Adamstown	396	190
St John the Baptist Primary, Maitland	375	255
St John Vianney Primary School, Morisset	63	121
St Josephs High, Aberdeen	300	628
St Joseph's Primary Denman	184	76
St Mary's Primary, Scone	426	168
St Paul's High, Booragul	63	908
St Pius X High, Adamstown	0	1001
Stroud Road Public	80	32
Tarro Public	333	116
Teralah Public	500	496
Teralah Public School	83	68
Thornton Public	229	542
Tighes Hill Public	375	230
Waratah West Public	500	78

TOTAL ENROLMENTS 23,244

* Is above 500 metres

Respiratory ailments, concern over coal

By GABRIEL WINGATE-PEARSE

DUST, health and pollution were the chief concerns of 588 Hunter residents who responded to a survey titled "Sick of Coal" commissioned by an alliance of 14 community and environment groups.

More than a third (39 per cent) reported that they or a member of their household suffered from a respiratory

ailment, and one third of those people thought the ailment was caused by coal.

Nearly three quarters of residents surveyed were "very" (46 per cent) or "somewhat" (23 per cent) concerned about the impact of coal trains passing in Newcastle suburbs.

The results of the survey were released exclusively to the *Newcastle Herald* yesterday. It was conducted by 55 community members who door

knocked almost 500 households close to coal-related infrastructure, with others completing the survey online.

The community questionnaire was developed and analysed with input from social scientists Dr James Whelan and Dr John Mackenzie.

The residents were also given the chance to make comments, which they did on issues including cancer rates, carcinogens in coal,

and general health impacts. One resident said he/she had been diagnosed with lung cancer "because of dust in the lungs".

Another said it was difficult to control the dust: "It gets in our lungs. There are carcinogens in coal".

A 2010 Department of Health report on respiratory and cardiac illness and cancer in the Hunter New England Area Health Service found the

region has higher than average rates of emergency department attendance for asthma and respiratory disease.

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A 2010 Department of Health report on respiratory and cardiac illness and cancer in the Hunter New England Area Health Service found the

region has higher than average rates of emergency department attendance for asthma and respiratory disease.

There were also higher rates of hospital admissions for all respiratory conditions and cardiovascular disease.

The study concluded the findings may have been affected by exposure to coal-mining and coal-fired power generation, however, further investigation was required.

Pupils close to railway lines

By ALISON BRANLEY Education Reporter

MORE than 23,000 Hunter school students spend their lunchtimes within 500 metres of the Hunter's coal rail corridor.

A review of the locations of Hunter public and private schools has shown 16 per cent of school grounds, 60 schools, are within walking distance of the region's coal railway lines.

It means students spend their lunchtimes playing while breathing air filled with coal dust emanating from passing trains.

Many also spend their days in classrooms without air-conditioners or air filters to protect them from damaging particulates that are contained in the dust.

Two Hunter schools even have dust monitors in place.

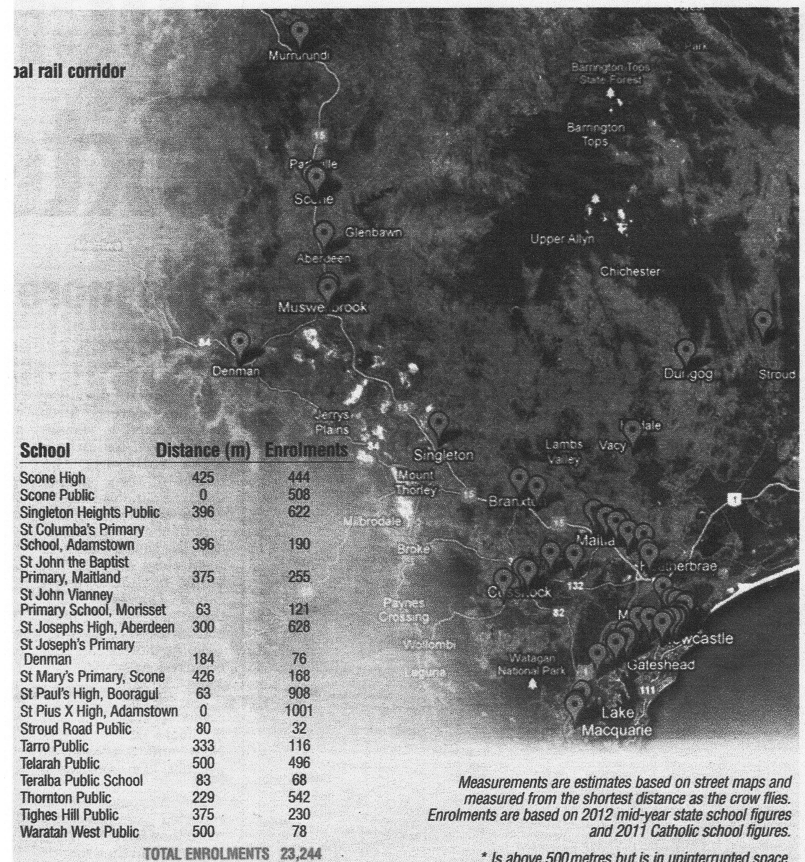
The NSW Minerals Council said it took the issue of air quality seriously and had backed research and monitoring that would lead to better understanding.

Singleton GP Dr Tuan Au has been investigating a link between open-cut mining operations and rising respiratory illness in his community and has thrown his support behind a *Newcastle Herald* campaign to put covers on the trains.

He conducted a study three years ago that involved more than 600 students in the Singleton area and found one in six had diminished lung function, which was on the "high side" compared to other areas.

In nearby Braxton where children were further from the mines only one in 20 had lower lung function.

Dr Au said the small par-



APPENDIX 5

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APPENDIX 6