

Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group

“10 Year Review UHAQMN Proposal 2019”



18 October 2019

NSW EPA & UHAQAC

NSW Dept of Planning, Industry & Envir

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

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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

“UHAQMN Upgrade Proposal - Air Pollution Dispersion”

SSHEG concurs with the ongoing NSW Health concerns in 2019, and respectively point out the fallacy of relying on the Good Nature of Mine Operators for Mines to “*Minimise Air Pollution downwind of these Mines*” by relying upon wording in “*Conditions of Consent*” to safeguard Singleton Shire Resident’s Health from the effects of Poor Mine Pollution Dispersion.

On behalf of the Singleton Community, we reaffirm our resolve for three Conditions to be affectively implemented: -

- 1) “Eliminate Visible Mine Blasting Plumes into the Atmosphere”, by
 - a) Smaller Blasts, and
 - b) Improved Blast Hole Stemming Material & Depth Use.
- 2) Control Mine Operations to Minimise Resident’s Cardiovascular and Respiratory Health impact of “Mine Dust” by using “New Mine Surrounding PM2.5 Networks” for each 30degree quadrant.
- 3) Mines progressively to Shut down Operations by Monitoring, Control and Alarming both, Valley Drifting Air Pollution Patterns as well as, the prevailing Mine Air Pollution Dispersion Conditions.

The extent of our resolve is evidenced in the recent preparation of our Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Project Proposal entitles “*Coordinated Coal Mining Air Pollution Mitigation Controls, Options as WHO & NEPM Standards lower in the Hunter*”. (Refer Attachment 1 for details)

This Proposal is the result of the SSHEG 10year Holistic Technical Review including 7 years of UHAQMN information; concluding that the Mine Air Pollution Drifting Flows at Ground Level, as detailed in EIS evaluations, are not representative of the actual Air Quality Exposures responsible for Diseases being reported by Singleton GP's.

SSHEG and Health Concerned Residents since 2008 as “Near Neighbours to Open Cut Mines” are asking the Question: -

“Why after 10 years of Community detailing the observed Diseases impact of sudden exposure to Mine Air Pollution; three years NSW Health, CSIRO & ANSTO Research 2010 -2013; WHO Air Pollution & Disease Declarations Oct 2013; eight years Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue, Mines, EPA & OEHL initiatives 2011- 2017; after all this combined effort; why are Singleton GP's again reporting worsening Pollution related Community Disease in 2019?”

Further, SSHEG 10year review concludes that Mines, rather than Minimising Pollution, now operate to target not to exceed the **Daily 24 Hr Average PM10 at midnight of 50ug/m³**(Compliance). 10 years ago PM10 monitoring was at its infancy with the focus on Mine Deposition Dust, but now in 2019 rather than Minimising PM10 levels, Mines are “observing” PM10 monitors to exceed 50ug/m³ for several hours throughout the day, rather than ceasing the Mine Emission Sources responsible.

We consider the Rights of those Residents being Health affected by living near Mine Pollution need to be afforded equally the same rights that Mining provides the broader NSW Communities.

Thanking you in anticipation of your acknowledgement.

Dr Neville Hodkinson PhD

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Attachment 1 ***“Coordinated Coal Mining Air Pollution Mitigation Controls, Options as WHO & NEPM Standards lower in the Hunter”*** Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Project Proposal for Emission and Health Group, Sept 2019