



Hon Dr Steven Miles MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Level 13
400 George Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7330
Facsimile +61 7 3220 6231
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Ref CTS 12238/16

08 JUN 2016

[REDACTED]
Yatala Residents Alliance Committee
PO Box 445
BEENLEIGH QLD 4207

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for raising community concerns in relation to air quality in Yatala and surrounding locations at the Gold Coast Community Cabinet held on 15 May 2016.

I have asked officers of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) to respond to the concerns raised in your submission and further correspondence dated 19 May 2016. Expert air quality advice has also been sought from the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI) in responding to your concerns.

Odours observed within the community

I note your concern that odour from composting operations is causing a nuisance in the Yatala area. In addition to the composting facility that you refer to, a number of other activities regulated by the state and local government are located within the Yatala area. I am informed that EHP has continued to investigate odour complaints it receives through its Pollution Hotline and takes compliance action where it is able to obtain evidence of non-compliance. In the event that evidence of non-compliance with legislation is obtained in relation to activities authorised by EHP, enforcement action has and will continue to be taken in line with EHP's published enforcement guidelines.

To enable EHP to respond to community concerns and obtain the necessary evidence to take enforcement action, I would encourage you and your members to report all alleged nuisance through EHP's Pollution Hotline at the time that you are being impacted. Pollution incidents can be reported 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by phoning 1300 130 372.

Concerns regarding Bio-Aerosols

In response to your previous concerns raised by YRA regarding the potential for bio-aerosol risks within the community, EHP instigated a bio-aerosol monitoring program in November 2015. A technical report has been provided to DSITI, which is currently in the process of compiling a report of the outcomes of the study for communication with the YRA and the public. The report is expected to be provided to EHP by the end of June 2016, however a preliminary review of the results show that compost associated bio-aerosol levels within close proximity to the alleged source were well below recommended exposure levels. I note your request that the Queensland Government take regular air samples of bio-aerosol levels. Following review of the report, a risk based approach will be used to determine if further sampling is required. This will be assessed in consultation with the expert advice obtained from DSITI and will be based on the results of the monitoring program undertaken to date.

Dust monitoring

Your submission refers to the need for urgent dust monitoring. As you would be aware, EHP has instigated continuous monitoring within the area at Luscombe. Results of continuous particulate monitoring are reported on the Queensland Government's open data website and available at <www.data.qld.gov.au/dataset/air-quality-monitoring-2015>. To view the relevant hourly air monitoring results for 2015, please click on the link for 'Luscombe (South East Queensland)'. At this point in time, no levels recorded have exceeded human health 24-hour standards for the particulate matter.

In addition to continuous particulate monitoring, respirable crystalline silica samples are also being collected and analysed. This was as a result of the request from the Yatala community. Human health standards for respirable crystalline silica are based on an annual average. For this reason, compliance with standards cannot be reported until such time as a full 12 months of monitoring is completed. Expert air quality advice from DSITI indicates that the results received to date have been at or below the detection limit of monitoring equipment. As such, I have been advised that while these results are indicative only, it is highly likely that the final results will be well below standard exposure levels.

To obtain sufficient results to enable a full analysis against human health standards, dust monitoring is expected to continue until the end of September 2016. Once final results are obtained, DSITI will compile a report on the monitoring program. A copy of this report will also be made available to YRA and the public.

I note your request that the Queensland Government ensure that permanent dust monitoring is installed in your area. Expert advice will be sought from DSITI to assess the need for permanent monitoring based on the results obtained from the 12-month study. As air monitoring stations fall under the jurisdiction of DSITI and the portfolio responsibilities of the Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business, a copy of your correspondence has been passed onto the Office of Minister Enoch with a request that a reply be forwarded to you at the earliest convenience.

Local government planning scheme

Your submission makes a request in relation to industry designations in the current City Plan 2016. Please note that local government planning schemes fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Honourable Jackie Trad MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment. As such, a copy of your correspondence has been passed on to the Office of the Deputy Premier with a request that a reply be forwarded to you at the earliest convenience.

I trust this information is of assistance and I thank you for participating in the Community Cabinet process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Miles', written in a cursive style.

DR STEVEN MILES MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef