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Poeo-clean-air-regulation-2022 DRAFT response

To Environment NSW, 3.6.22 POEO CLEAN AIR 2022

Re: Need to raise the required standards for Air Quality in NSW surrounding coal fired power stations.

From: Beverley Atkinson B.Arch. [REDACTED] (Upper Hunter Valley). [REDACTED]

For 20 years now I have lived in the Upper Hunter, and learned increasingly about the reasons for a diminishing air quality where I live, and where my friends live in Muswellbrook.

I've looked at the Air Quality Monitoring results which apply only as far up as Aberdeen, and I've often reported to the EPA when morning air in Scone is sulphurous and smelly. I don't report most of the sub-standard air days. For a long time we had drought, and dust was ubiquitous, confusing the perception. Now with temporarily clearer base air, it is much clearer.

When that smell comes from spontaneous combustion in Muswellbrook underground mine directly south, 30 km away, then we in Scone must also be inhaling any PM2 smaller particles from Liddell and Bayswater power stations not far south of that burning mine. Even closer is Dartbrook underground mine constantly leaking methane for 100 years. That's no excuse to give up on curbing the even more toxic power station emissions.

We have heard at many hearings, from doctors who advise patients to leave Muswellbrook for the health of their lungs, for their children's health.

We find that the standards of admissible toxic pollution in other countries are far tougher than ours for reasons of health, and we wonder why ours are so lax.

This review of regulation seems to give us a chance to improve our health, make the polluters work harder to contain the poisons, and create/maintain excellent JOBS in doing so. Costs do actually equate to JOBS, which are the currency of elections and policies... Money is only worth what it buys. We need it to buy research, and administration of high quality and strict regulation, so that science can be used; can translate into human health and benefit.

The exceedences from our power stations are known to be foul and frequent. This is not to be tolerated, and I urge that higher standards be applied.

Thank you,

Bev Atkinson.