

26/3/2021

Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Health Impacts of Air Pollution

Submission from the Inner West Air Quality Community Reference Group (IWAQCRG)

The Inner West Air Quality Community Reference Group was formed in 2018 to examine issues of air quality and prepare a report for government. The group was formed from local government area volunteers from Brimbank, Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay. The group's activities were supported and facilitated by DELWP.

Our report into issues affecting air quality in Melbourne's Inner West was submitted in 2020 to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Transport Infrastructure Jacinta Allen, Minister for Roads and Road Safety and Public Transport, Ben Carrol and Minister for Ports and Freight, Melissa Horne.

Our report uncovered that:

- Residents of Melbourne's Inner West experience many health problems at a significantly higher rate than other parts of the city, with the standout health issues directly relating to the typical impacts of air pollution.
- Air pollution in the area is significantly above Victoria's air quality standards, with monitoring done by the West Gate Tunnel Authority showing that air pollution has significantly worsened over the past four years.
- Air pollution will continue to worsen due to increased housing density and traffic volumes, a growing freight task and construction of major projects such as the West Gate Tunnel Project, generating construction dust, increased freeway emissions and the possibility of more trucks using residential areas.
- One of the main reasons for our high levels of air pollution is a historical lack of government action to deal with pollution sources and impacts in the Inner West.

Whilst we await the state government's response to the report and its recommendations, we would like to submit our report to the Inquiry in its entirety.

On behalf of the Inner West Air Quality Community Reference Group (IWAQCRG).



Patsy Toop OAM

Chairperson

**Attachments: *Air Pollution in Melbourne's Inner West – Taking direct action to reduce our community's exposure, 2020.***

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands within the Brimbank, Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay municipalities, the Kulin Nation including the Wurundjeri and other traditional owners. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practice