

Air pollution Inquiry

Ms Carlyne Boothman

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

I was born and raised in Morwell and have lived here all my life. My parents both worked in the power industry.

I have been involved with the recovery processes since the Hazelwood Mine Fire of 2014, the bushfires that impacted Yinnar South, Budgeree and Jumbuk of 2019, and the smoke events that impact the area during planned burns or when bans on private burns are lifted.

The Hazelwood Health Study showed how the air flows in the Latrobe Valley often mean the air settles in the Valley, building up the chemicals that people are breathing. Our health statistics are much poorer than the rest of the state, and our children suffer more with asthma, because of the heavy industry in the area and the air pollution created.

The EPA monitoring of the power stations and paper mill allows them to breach their licences regularly, with no consequence.

Add to this, that the Victorian Government has approved the establishment of a secondary lead smelter in Hazelwood North, 1.5km from a primary school, and knowing that it will release large amounts of lead and other poisons into our air. Every time we visit the local tip, drive on the major highway to towns like Churchill and Yinnar, we will be within 500m of this industry, yet at the lead smelter owned by the same company in Albury/Wodonga, their own staff park 5km from the plant and are bussed in.

This is a major threat to our air quality, and must be considered in this inquiry. The industry is simply in the wrong place, and I call on this inquiry to do everything possible to protect our air.

Signature:

Carolyne Boothman