



TIGHES HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL

P & C ASSOCIATION

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Submission to the Public Assessment Commissioner

Dear Public Assessment Commissioners

Re. Coal Dust in School Playgrounds

The Tighes Hill Public School Parents and Citizens group are writing to express our concerns about the proposed T4 coal terminal.

We are concerned regarding the impacts of Coal Dust Particulates in School playgrounds in our school and within Newcastle LGA on the health and well-being of our children.

Investigations by the Coal Terminal Action Group have revealed a number of concerns regarding breaches of National Environmental Protection Measures (NEPMS). It is our understanding that Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS) is issued with an 'Operating Licence'.

We seek assurance that PWCS is operating within the constraints of their licence which have been issued by the NSW Department of Planning. We argue that the NSW Government has a clear Duty of Care to provide a safe environment for the students and staff of Government Education Institutions.

In the interests of the health and safety of students and teachers we ask the following questions:

1. Does the EPA have the necessary budget to measure and regulate the particulate emissions from the coal industry? If not, why is this the case?
2. What air quality monitoring does the NSW Government, via the EPA, conduct to ensure that students and teachers are not exposed to carcinogenic coal dust particulates below 2.5 micron?
3. What health assurances can the NSW Government provide in relation to air quality for students and teachers, as per Work Health Safety legislation?
4. Can the NSW Government categorically state that the current coal transport and loading operations are in accordance with International Best Practice? If not, why is this the case?

Until these questions can be answered to the satisfaction of parents at our school we assert it is inappropriate, and potentially in breach of the NSW Government's Duty of Care, for the NSW Government to increase the coal exporting capacity of Newcastle Port by granting approval to PWCS to build a fourth coal terminal.

Sincerely,

Tighes Hill Public School Parents and Citizens