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MEDIA RELEASE

DUST GUIDELINES CONTINUE TO BE MET IN PORT HEDLAND

Dust levels measured in Port Hedland have remained within State-set interim guidelines over the past financial year, as the Government, community and industry work towards a new era of planning and land use options in the West End.

The Port Hedland Industries Council Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network annual report, released today, shows that during 2018/19, at the Taplin Street monitoring station there were no days above the 24-hour average interim guideline for PM₁₀ of 70 µg/m³.

Port Hedland's export tonnage was marginally (1%) lower than the previous year, due to cyclone Veronica. In the past seven years, export tonnage has increased year on year. All monitoring stations experienced a loss of data from March 21 to 27 because of Cyclone Veronica, but Taplin Street recorded 11 months of uninterrupted data.

PHIC Chief Executive Kirsty Danby said it was the first instance of zero exceedance days above the interim guideline for a reporting period since the guideline's implementation.

"The PM₁₀ readings at Taplin Street have been within the interim guideline for exceedances over a 12-month period for several years, alongside an increase in iron ore exports through the Port of Port Hedland," Ms Danby said

She said exceedance days have varied from year to year since monitoring began. However, given no exceedance days were recorded at Taplin Street in the reporting period, PHIC commissioned additional weather and wind analysis and requested a monitoring site assessment, which found no anomalies or equipment faults.

"All monitoring stations are checked monthly to ensure they are maintained and are operating properly," she said.

Responsibility for the Network is being transferred to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) under recommendations from the Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce endorsed by the State Government.

DWER has developed a transition development. It is expected to take 12 months.

ENDS

UPDATE: Since publishing the 2018/19 Annual Report, inconsistent PM₁₀ readings were detected at the Taplin Street monitoring station within the Port Hedland Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network. This was confirmed on 23 January 2020.

PHIC's investigation into the nature of the inconsistent readings is ongoing, however PHIC has reason to believe that the previously published Taplin Street findings for the 2018/19 reporting period are not reliable and advises that they should not be cited.

PHIC commissioned Katestone Environmental Pty Ltd to update the 2018/19 Annual Report to exclude the Taplin Street findings. The republished 2018/19 Annual Report includes findings from the other seven stations in the Port Hedland Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program. The stations are: Kingsmill, Richardson Street, Neptune, Yule, Wedgefield, Bureau of Meteorology, and South Hedland

UPDATE ENDS

A copy of the addendum to the initial Annual Report and the revised report are available at: [PHIC Annual Report \(FY 2018/19\)](#)

A copy of the air quality monitoring fact sheet is available at: [Air Quality Monitoring Fact Sheet](#)

Air quality monitoring data is available in real time to industry and the public via the [PHIC website](#).

ABOUT PHIC

PHIC is an incorporated organisation with the overarching objective of assisting the Port and Port Hedland to achieve its maximum potential.

PHIC provides a forum for information sharing and knowledge transfer and assists partner companies to manage and minimise the impacts of industry on the community.

Through its members, PHIC brings substantial industry expertise and a coordinated response to industry issues and is a single, industry-wide point of contact for government and community engagement concerning industry development, environment, safety and land-use planning.

As an organisation, PHIC takes a collaborative approach and works to achieve its goals through inputs from several committees set up to actively participate and provide input on a range of common issues.

Committee members are volunteers with experience, expertise and authority within member companies.

PHIC acts collaboratively for the benefit of industry and the Port Hedland community to ensure the long-term, sustainable growth of the Port.

PHIC comprises the Pilbara Ports Authority, BHP, FMG, Roy Hill and Consolidated Minerals.

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