

The construction and operation of the surface facilities of the W2CP may generate some air quality issues that will require further investigation. The main dust sources from the surface facilities are likely to be:

- dust generated from loading and unloading of materials or product;
- truck movements (particularly if over unsealed roads);
- coal stockpiles; and
- transport of coal on conveyors, transfer stations and locomotives proposed for product transport.

Local meteorology (which includes the wind speed and direction and stability classes to some extent) also has a role in determining the amount of dust generated from the site and transported to surrounding residences or landowners. The impacts on air quality will depend on the amount of dust generated from the site which in turn depends on factors such as the volume and size of stockpiles, moisture content, vehicle movements, local meteorology and dust mitigation measures.

To assess the air quality effects of the Project, predicted dust deposition and concentration levels (that will be generated at the surface facilities) will be compared with recognised air quality criteria.

Monitoring of air quality in the project area began in 1996. Two types of monitoring were undertaken: static dust deposition and high volume air sampling. Two types of High Volume Air Samplers (HVAS) were included in the monitoring network: TSP which measures total suspended particulates and PM10 which measures particles smaller than 10 microns. The air quality monitoring network was regularly updated to focus on collecting information surrounding the proposed surface facilities. HVAS monitoring included sampling up to six locations and up to 20 static dust gauges were measured for the project area. However, the air quality monitoring program has been further refined to focus on the priority areas relevant to the current W2CP.

Information collected from the monitoring network will provide existing dust levels for the area. Subsequently, the permitted increase in dust levels resulting from the project can be calculated. Data collected to date indicates that suspended and deposited dust levels are well within compliance limits.

Further assessment will be carried out by Holmes Air Sciences on the likely impact on the existing air quality for inclusion in the Environmental Assessment document. This study will include assessment of both dust and gas emissions from all site operations.

