



## FLINDERS POWER SITE Community Update #9

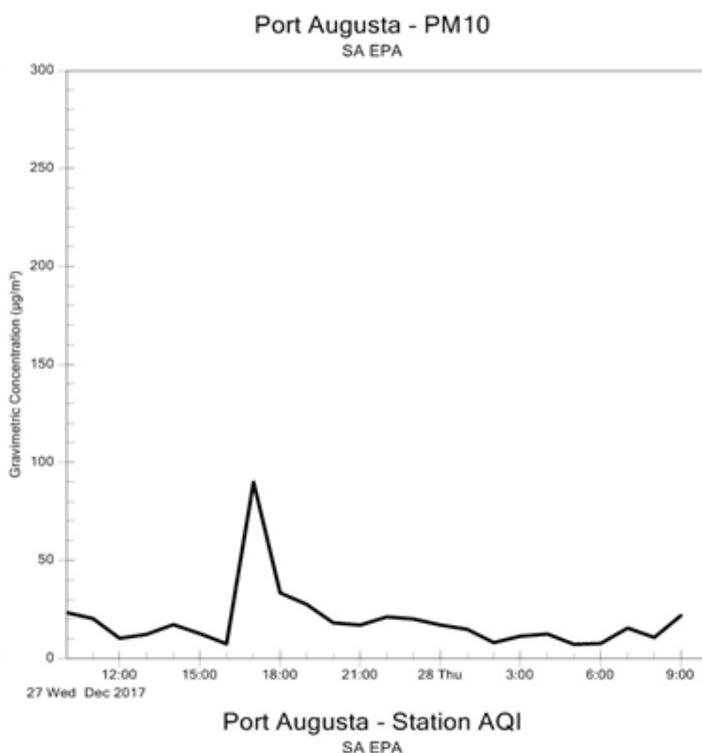
Issued Thursday 28 December 2017

In this update we are providing the community with information on yesterday's dust event. Extreme weather and high winds in the north of the state lead to elevated levels of dust being detected by air quality monitoring equipment in Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie.

### Dust event 27 December 2017

High winds late on the afternoon of 27 December caused significant visible dust from the site of the former Port Augusta power stations. Flinders Power reported dust from both the topsoil cover on the former ash dam and from the site of the former coal stockpile. There has been no report at this stage of any dust from the section of the ash dam covered with dust suppressant; however, the EPA will review available data to confirm this.

Air quality monitoring data showed elevated levels of dust in Port Augusta, peaking at 5:00pm and lasting for approximately three hours, with levels staying above normal detection until 7:00pm.



### Contacting the EPA

The **EPA 24-hour** number is **8204 2004**.

An automated response will offer you 3 options; choose 'connect to an operator' and you will be able to speak with an operator who will take your details and forward your information to the EPA's technical staff for follow up. You can also email [portaugustadust@epa.sa.gov.au](mailto:portaugustadust@epa.sa.gov.au).

Please call the number above rather than the 1800 number which was included on previous correspondence; this number can only be called from a landline. If you are calling from a mobile please call 8204 2004.

# Regulation of the Flinders Power Site

Flinders Power is required by the EPA to have a Dust Management Plan and to take all reasonable and practicable measures to minimise dust. This includes using water carts and continuing to keep the exposed sections of the ash dam covered with chemical dust suppressant. The EPA was in contact with Flinders Power prior to the dust event and immediately after, to ensure all required steps were being taken.

## Next steps

The EPA will conduct a more detailed review of data from air quality monitoring stations in Port Augusta and will meet with Flinders Power to review compliance with the Dust Management Plan and ensure all steps were taken to minimise dust.

Seeds which have been sown into the soil have been furrowed, meaning that it is unlikely any significant amount of seed would have been lost in the winds. Germination of seeds will continue to be monitored and if any areas are identified where seed loss has occurred, these will be required to be reseeded.

## Dust and your health

SA Health provides the following advice on managing health impacts. For more information please view the [dust and your health](#) fact sheet. Advice during any dust incident, including dust storms:

- If you are having difficulty in breathing, seek medical attention - either from your local GP or the local emergency department.
- People (adults and children) with asthma should follow their asthma plan and if prescribed a preventer, keep taking it according to their doctor's instructions.
- People with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD - emphysema and/or chronic bronchitis) or other chronic lung condition should follow their action plan and continue their regular medications.
- If dust is causing itchy eyes, nose and skin - wash well with water and if symptoms persist seek medical attention.

## Flinders Power statement

*Flinders Power is aware of the dust event this afternoon and was monitoring conditions throughout the day. We had three water carts in operation due to the anticipated cool change. However when the change hit it came with such ferocity that it has lifted soil on some areas of the ash storage area and also lifted some residual coal from the former coal stockpile. The dust was not ash. We continue to have personnel onsite and watercarts in operation and will continue to do so over the summer period.*

FURTHER INFORMATION

*For further information please contact:*

Telephone:

(08) 8204 2004

Email: [portaugustadust@epa.sa.gov.au](mailto:portaugustadust@epa.sa.gov.au)

Website: [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au)

(Click hyperlink if viewing this publication online) or follow the link at the bottom left hand corner to Port Augusta Power Station Site.

**To request any of this information in the post, please call us on the above number.**

*For health related information please contact:*

Telephone: (08) 8226 7100

Website: [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au)

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