

**From:** .  
**To:** [Community Affairs, Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to inquiry - Impacts on health of air quality in Australia  
**Date:** Saturday, 2 March 2013 9:15:50 PM

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I have lived and worked in the Hunter for about 45 years. I have lived at Aberdeen and in Newcastle.

Over that time the coal and power generation industries have rapidly expanded and the pollution has moved from an annoyance level to now totally out of control.

The Senate Inquire must visit both the Muswellbrook area and the Newcastle LGA. Seeing is believing. An air flight over the Upper Hunter mines, a drive down the New England Hwy and then a tour of the Kooragang area would be a minimum to get a fundamental feel of the choking atmosphere. For most of the Hunter Region it is no longer possible to find "ambient air" and almost every long term resident has health issues related to dust.

The dust makes the car dirty, often spoils the washing and fills the house with a fine layer of "industrial fallout". Whilst that is of nuisance value that same dust is in my mouth, up my nose and eating into my skin making it a life and death matter.

To try to quieten the community complaints industry is required to be licenced and do self monitoring and the EPA has established a small network of community monitors. Due to very substandard equipment, low standards, poor administration and management and a major lack of resources the monitoring fails to achieve results.

The pollution monitoring operation needs to be adequately funded and located.

The pollution monitoring system must be moved forward to encompass automatic alert systems and automatic fine issuing.

The monitoring and regulation aspects must be self funding provide rapid penalties.

I would welcome an opportunity to address the Inquire.  
Rick Banyard