

**From:**  
**To:** [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Health Impacts of Coal Dust  
**Date:** Monday, 4 March 2013 10:55:11 PM

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Dear Senator Rachael Siewert,

I would like to express my serious concern over the proposed new coal loading terminal at Dudgeon Point.

I live in East Mackay, and currently I get a fine layer of coal dust on the outside of my house, and it makes its way inside the house also. This comes from the Hay Point coal loading terminal, which is significantly further away from the city of Mackay than the proposed Dudgeon Point facility, and, as I understand it, half the size.

I am a generally very healthy and active 45 year old. My GP recently diagnosed me as having a chest infection, my THIRD in 12 months. I have never had a chest infection previously, and can see no reason whatever to have one, and can only surmise that it is from the coal dust, as it is well established that coal dust can cause respiratory problems/disease. Until very recently I was having a daily run at Town Beach, which looks over to Hay Point...I now think this is probably not in the best interests of my health! I was speaking to my next door neighbour last weekend, a man in his mid fifties, and he happened to mention he had been off work the previous week with a chest infection....

I sincerely hope the proposed new coal loading terminal does not go ahead. I believe it would have devastating health consequences for a significant portion of the Mackay community, and be a very serious threat (with all the extra traffic) to the Great Barrier Reef. Additionally, a big terminal that close to Mackay would aesthetically destroy our beautiful coastline, turning it into an industrial eyesore.

Surely no amount of money is worth the loss of the health of our people and our environment. Moreover, I believe we should have independently audited fine particle coal dust monitoring in Mackay, so that it is better understood exactly what we are currently breathing in.

Yours Sincerely,

Kathy Cave