

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Review of rail coal dust emissions management practices in the NSW coal chain

The Government response to Recommendation 7 of the Inquiry into the Performance of the NSW Environment Protection Authority was that "The Chief Scientist & Engineer has agreed to undertake a review of rail coal dust emissions management practices. This will include a review of the work the EPA has undertaken in relation to coal dust emissions along the rail corridor in the Hunter Valley, as well as review of environmental monitoring, the literature, and the environmental management practices of operators using the rail network."

In undertaking the review the Chief Scientist & Engineer will provide advice on coal dust and related emissions in the rail corridor, in particular:

1. identify, describe and comment on:
 - a. key issues, including current scientific knowledge and matters of expressed public concern
 - b. initiatives in NSW and other jurisdictions to address issues, including measurement, prevention and management practices
 - c. any gaps or issues arising
2. describe advances in technology for sampling and monitoring air emissions from the coal chain in the rail corridor.

The review report will also include contextual information on air quality including dust and particulate emissions across the coal supply chain, and approaches used by NSW and other jurisdictions to measure, assess and manage these.

In undertaking the review the Chief Scientist & Engineer may consult with stakeholders and engage experts as needed.

The NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer will provide to the Minister for the Environment an initial report by 30 November 2015 and a final report by 31 March 2016.