

Queensland State Government
Community Cabinet Meeting - Gold Coast

WHO ARE WE? Yatala Residents Alliance (www.yatala.info)

WHERE ARE WE? Northern Gold Coast - residential estates situated between one of the largest and growing industrial estates and in close proximity to 4 large hard rock quarries.

We acknowledge that this area is vital for the future prosperity of the Gold Coast and Queensland, however it should not be at the cost of the health and amenity of residents many of whom resided in this area before much of it was rezoned for Urban and Key Resource Area purposes.

SERIOUS MAJOR CONCERNS - air quality - bio aerosols and dust contaminants.

NOXIOUS ODOURS and BIO AEROSOLS

Existing composting operations have been causing odour pollution (and also very possibly more serious air pollution by way of bio-aerosol emissions) for many years to the point YRA had to establish our own complaints line in 2012 in an attempt to highlight that something needed to be done about this ongoing problem. You may be interested to know that although the DEHP and the Planning and Environment Court finally served a strict EPO on the offending company on the 8th of April 2015, the odour problem still persists.

SILICA and ASBESTOS in DUST

In 2014 upon being advised of a MCU (Material Change of Use) application from one of our local quarries, we became aware from the analysis of a rock sample in that submission that the rock contained 37% silica and 3% asbestos. Obviously if the rock contains silica and asbestos so does the dust which emanates from the quarries and fills the air that we all breathe.

NEED FOR URGENT DUST MONITORING

Despite requests to DEHP and government ministers for 24/7 dust monitoring stations the community has not been given any test results.

Premier we would be much obliged if:

- Your government could ensure that permanent 24/7 dust monitoring is installed in our area and that regular air samples are taken of bio-aerosol levels downwind from composting and shredding operations.
- Your government could ensure that Council has the power to enforce the low impact and Medium impact industry designations in the current City Plan 2016, so that hazardous and high impact industry is never allowed to set up in those low impact areas by default if they challenge Council in the Planning and Environment Court.

SELF REGULATION DOES NOT WORK, as has been shown repeatedly in our area. The Yatala/Ormeau community is concerned that it should not be left up to residents to have to continually lodge complaints and then have to keep following up for conditions on developments to be policed.