

The Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP  
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef  
GPO Box 2454  
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Queensland 4001

13<sup>th</sup> July 2016

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## **Re-Continuation and response to your letters CTS 15640/16 dated 22 June 2016 and CTS 12238/16 dated 8 June 2016**

Dear Minister Miles,

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2016, YRA received a copy of a dust complaint #585 from a resident in Vennor Drive, Ormeau, showing the time of 10.30am. As further evidence, another resident of Vennor Drive then took a photo of this ongoing dust event at 16:38 pm on the same day 16 July 2016. This photo is provided below and with the email attachments titled "complaint\_585.jpg" and "Image 3 (2) re complaint 585 6 July 2016".

YRA asks you to envisage that resident was **YOURSELF**, would you not be concerned about the harm that the dust clouds enveloping your home were doing to your family's health? Especially if you knew that the said dust contained 37% silica and 3 % actinolite asbestos and you were aware that both the crystalline silica and actinolite were known carcinogens, responsible for various lung cancers amongst which is mesothelioma, along with other respiratory diseases. Please refer to the following extract regarding actinolite asbestos which comprises additional link for further information:

### **Actinolite Asbestos**

*Actinolite asbestos is a form of amphibole asbestos. Like other types of amphibole asbestos, it consists of long, sharp fibers and its make up is very similar to that of another amphibole variety - tremolite asbestos. Varying in color from white or gray to dark brown, it is commonly found in metamorphic rocks. Actinolite asbestos is fairly rare and was not often used in asbestos-containing products but, nonetheless, its use has been regulated since the late 1970s.*

*As a naturally-occurring mineral, it isn't unusual for actinolite to be discovered in rocks or soil. In 2002, about 30,000 cubic yards of rock that was taken from a university property and dumped in the Meadowlands in northern New Jersey was found to contain about 10 percent actinolite. This presented an obvious danger to those in the area. Furthermore, at the site of the university – Stevens Institute – excavators who were drilling and blasting did so without regard for those in the area, even though the presence of asbestos may have been detected.*

*As with all forms of asbestos, actinolite is a known carcinogen that can cause [mesothelioma cancer](#). Its tiny, sharp fibers, when airborne, are easy to inhale. Because it is of the amphibole family, actinolite fibers are particularly difficult to expel after they are absorbed by the body and can cause scarring, irritation, and – eventually – asbestos-related diseases. It is important to note, however, that there are non-fibrous forms of actinolite that do not pose any health problems such as [mesothelioma](#).*

Read more: <http://www.mesothelioma.com/asbestos-cancer/asbestos-types/actinolite.htm#ixzz4Dc0r2EJJ>



Vennor Drive, Ormeau, Qld - 16.38pm on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Furthermore would you not be **even more concerned** if you knew that a quarry in Gympie was closed in 2010 for having an asbestos content in the rock as described in the newspaper article as only grams in comparison to a ton of rock, when you also knew that quarries near your home contained 30 kilograms of actinolite asbestos per ton of rock? That is THIRTY THOUSAND TIMES THE LEVEL OF POTENTIAL ASBESTOS FIBRES IN THE AIR THAT YOU ARE EXPOSED TO, IN COMPARISON TO THE LEVELS OF THE GYMPIE QUARRY AS PER THE NEWSPAPER REPORT IN THIS LINK.

<http://www.gympietimes.com.au/news/asbestos-warning-staff-lungs-quarry-monkland/625655/>

This next link below, will take you to a rock/petrology report for a quarry MCU application in the Darlington ranges (the rock composition was confirmed by DEHP in a letter dated 22 December 2014 for Yatala and Ormeau area) The pdf file in the link clearly shows on page 1- 37% Silica and on page 5 in the table under the heading of secondary minerals 3% Actinolite.

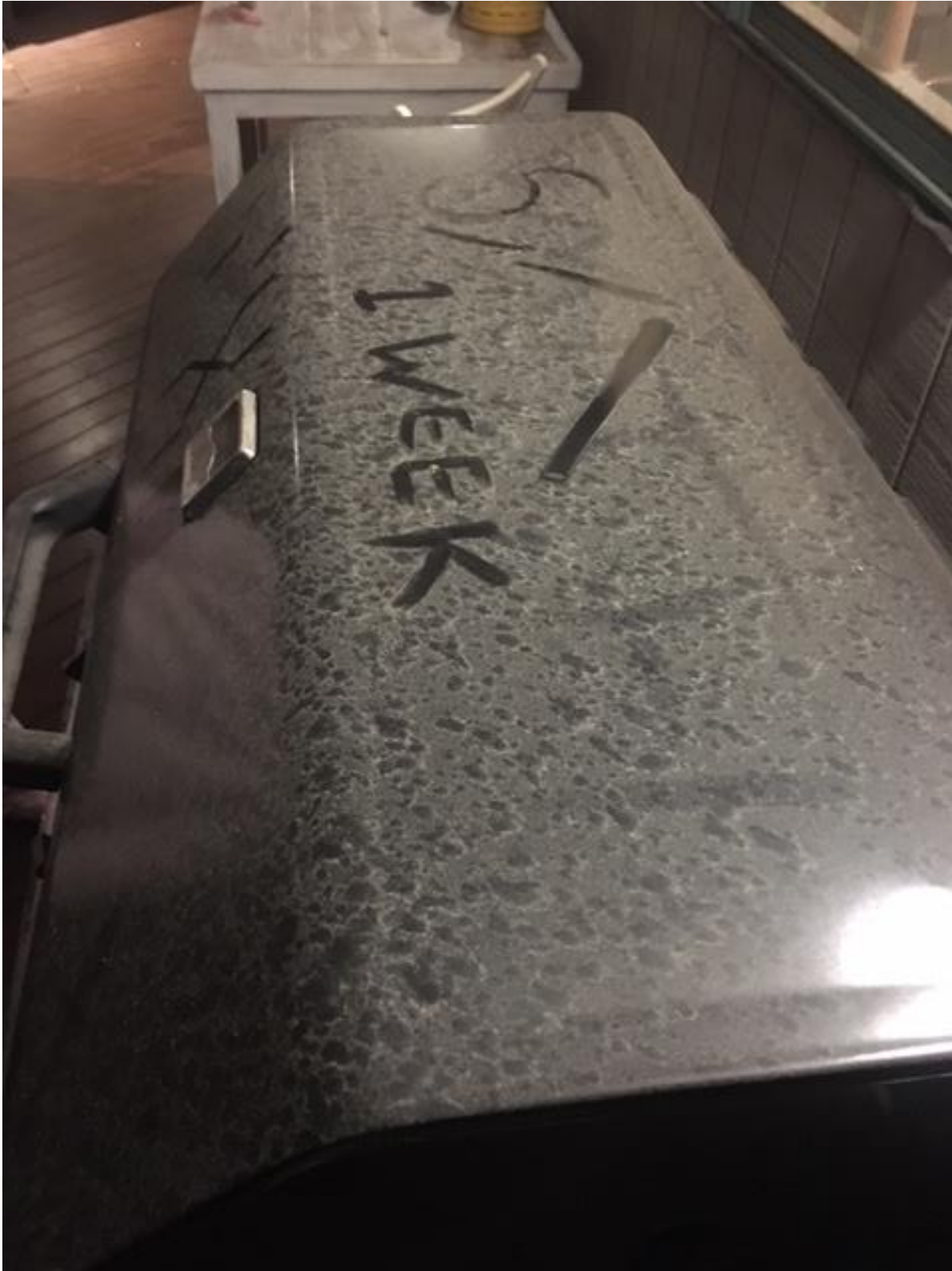
<http://pdonline.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/masterview/modules/common/default.aspx?page=search>

To find the rock analysis report in this pdonline link follow the instructions below:

- ➔ Click on Development application tracking (DA Tracking)
- ➔ In box titled application number enter "201300734"
- ➔ On the page that opens click on the magnifying glass MCU201300734
- ➔ On the page that opens titled "application details" continue scrolling down the page until you reach a section titled "Completed response to the city of gold coast information request for Hanson Wolffdene quarry" this section contains 28 pdf files, the petrology report can be viewed by clicking on the **Pdf file Part 27**.



Minister Miles further to all of the above, we have been forwarded photographs of dust from Vennor Drive residents. We ask you to seriously view and **then question whether the 120 milligram per square metre nuisance dust deposition test/condition required of the quarries in their development permits is indeed sufficient or accurate enough**, if it permits these levels of dust at residential premises adjacent to quarries? The following is one sample of these photos and the rest are provided in the attachment titled "FW\_Dust (3) Vennor Drive dust photos June July 2016".



Vennor Drive, Ormeau, Qld. Dust build-up over 1 week on home BBQ. Image taken at 18.35pm on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Based on the specific gravity of solid packed earth and on a maximum deposition rate of 120 milligrams per square metre per day, it would require some 4 years for the dust level to reach a thickness equivalent to a sheet of A4 copy paper. We concede that this thickness will vary dependant on the actual makeup of the rock in our area. **However we would be most interested if your experts can explain how the deposition rates on the furniture and properties in Vennor Drive and other residences in Yatala and Ormeau can be considered acceptable**, when based on our observations of the photos of the dust levels, that the true level over that 4 year period could be approaching dangerously and embarrassingly higher levels - perhaps in the range of 10-100 or more times the acknowledged permissible level.

Minister Miles, on the basis that **YOU** were one of those residents in Ormeau and under the current circumstances would you not also be extremely disappointed at the apparent lack of concern and respect shown to your predicament by your government representatives and authorities who, after over one and a half years of delays, have not given you any clear information in regard to your families or communities safety?

How can anyone treat an urgent request with such obvious lack of concern or respect as to allow this to drag on for over one and a half years with no clear end in sight? Unless communication was initiated repeatedly by the affected community in Ormeau and Yatala, there would have been no communication by anyone in authority during that entire time. How disgraceful is this!

With all due respect, URGENT means URGENT! We await a clear and prompt answer as to the state of our safety within the FOURTEEN DAYS from the date of this communication. No further stalling is acceptable - one and a half years of uncertainty is just not good enough!

Yours truly,

Yatala Residents Alliance Committee  
Cavell Dorman  
Siegfried Nowak  
Brad Atkins  
Jacob Mohar

**FOR and on BEHALF of the YRA Members – all of whom have received a copy of this correspondence and your previous correspondence in reply to the YRA Letters.**

**Please read this letter with attachments provided in the email and labelled:**

- 1) YRA Letter to Hon Dr Steven Miles 13 July 2016
- 2) Complaint Letter – 585.jpg
- 3) Image 3 (2) re complaint 585 6 July 2016
- 4) FW\_Dust (3) Vennor Drive dust photos June July 2016

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**MISSION STATEMENT: “A Community voice surrounding topics which impact the lifestyle, health and environment of residents near commercial and industrial developments in the Yatala Enterprise Area”**

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