



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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STATEMENT ON SUN HERALD CLAIMS

Contrary to reports in the Sun Herald all of the Minister's statements to parliament and the community have been made on the basis of the best available evidence and science.

They are also consistent with the latest advice available from her agencies.

The Environment Protection Authority advised the Minister that a link between train passage and particles does exist. This has never been disputed.

The EPA advised train passage is expected to lead to a spike in air particles due to the combustion of diesel fuel in locomotive engines, the presence of coal and other dust particles along the track or in wagons.

The EPA further advised that the first ARTC study showed no appreciable difference in particle levels between train types.

The second ARTC study showed no appreciable difference between loaded coal trains and freight trains. However, an independent peer review of this study indicated some inadequacies with the statistical analysis undertaken.

Following these concerns raised in September 2013, at the Minister's request and on the NSW Chief Scientist's recommendation Professor Louise Ryan was engaged to undertake a new independent statistical analysis of this data. The EPA expects to have her report in two weeks' time.

The current government is doing more for air quality in the Hunter region than ever before.

The NSW Government has announced a new air quality monitoring network for Newcastle to complement the existing Upper Hunter network.

The EPA will also undertake a regional air particle characterisation study to quantify particulate types and sources and a dust deposition study will provide insight into particle deposition along rail corridors.

For more information visit: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/LHairqualstuds.htm>