

# Project Update

## Coal Loss Management Project

Number 6

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### Transitional Environmental Program (TEP)

***The suppression of coal dust emissions from coal trains on Central Queensland rail lines has started with spray stations in operation at Boundary Hill, Callide and Ensham mines.***

A pilot spray station will also soon be installed at Blair Athol, with others planned following an agreement between QR Network, coal customers and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement the recommended mitigation methods identified in the Environmental Evaluation (EE) accepted by the EPA in March this year.

QR Network has received agreement from a number of Central Queensland coal mines to spray suppressants on loaded coal wagons which will reduce coal dust emissions by up to 75 per cent.

The agreement comes following a round of negotiations between QR Network, coal customers, and a request from the EPA to adopt a coal supply chain approach to improve the management of coal dust emissions.

This includes a number of wagon washing facilities at the unloading points to reduce residual coal on the return journey to the mines, and limiting the amount of coal leaking from gaps between wagon doors.

These combined mitigation methods are expected to bring significant relief to those communities impacted by nuisance coal dust in Central Queensland, and ensures the ongoing protection of the environment.

A TEP was approved by the EPA on August 22. QR Network has until December 2009 to submit the draft Coal Dust Management Plan (CDMP).

### Coal Dust Management Plan



### Spray Stations

As agreed with the EPA the CDMP will focus on setting up spray stations at mines that produce the dustier coals.

A series of wind tunnel tests conducted in the EE identified 35 mines in Central Queensland which will be included in the initial plan.



## Door Loss Measurement Mechanism

A six-month study into the amount of coal being lost from gaps between doors has been completed. The data is now being assessed by independent experts. The results will determine whether any mitigation methods are required.

## Coal loading and profiling

As part of the TEP's requirements, any mines that are currently not meeting the correct loading and profiling standards will be required to review their operational procedures and adopt the correct method for loading and profiling as a long-term mitigation solution.

## On-going monitoring

A new, innovative method for monitoring visible dust emissions will be trialled as part of the CDMP. While the method has been used to monitor emissions in road tunnels, it has not been used for monitoring visible coal dust emissions. The opacity monitoring will allow QR Network to more accurately match any excess dust emission rates to specific coal trains and thereby, mines. The methodology has received approval from the EPA.

## New Coal Loss Management Project team member

The Coal Loss Management Project's new Project Manager Graham Stockwell has worked in, or managed projects and programs most of his working life. His experience in industries across various levels of government and the private sector including ICT, education, utilities and mining allows him to comfortably work in a variety of sectors.

The Coal Loss Management Project provides an opportunity for Graham to combine his project background with his recent specialisation in organisational change.

"The project is largely about influencing the coal industry in Central Queensland to align itself to contemporary views on environmental issues. Getting all the players and service providers in the industry to work together to find solutions that are acceptable to the environmentally savvy community is a tremendous challenge that I'm really looking forward to."

## Have your say:

QR Network encourages feedback from the community. If you would like to register feedback about coal loss in your area or comment on the final EE please mail it to **Coal Loss Management Project, GPO Box 1429, Brisbane QLD 4001**, or call us on **07 4932 0268**.

Alternatively email: [coalloss@qr.com.au](mailto:coalloss@qr.com.au)

## Wagon Washing Facilities

The CLMP team is progressing with identifying which unloading points will require a wagon washing station. Plans are currently being drafted for a facility at QAL.

## PM<sub>10</sub> testing

An industry-wide literature review will be conducted to analyse existing data to provide further information that supports (or otherwise) the finding made in the EE that concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> (particles smaller than ten microns) are less than 50 per cent of the recorded concentrations of Total Suspended Particulates.

## Community Consultation

Prior to starting the next round of monitoring, an independent survey of Central Queensland communities will be conducted to establish a 'perception benchmark'. Once spray stations have been operational for twelve months, a second survey will be conducted to ascertain the community's satisfaction with the reduction in coal dust emissions.

