

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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EPA expands air quality monitoring network

The EPA will install continuous air quality monitors at Lea Memorial Oval, Port Augusta, on March 9, with the data to be available in real time on the EPA website.

Confirmation of the March 9 installation follows advice given to the community at a community information session on February 6 that new monitors would be installed in early March.

The EPA monitoring equipment replaces temporary EPA monitoring units that were installed in Hannagan Street on 7 January 2017 and will be in addition to the five Flinders Power monitoring stations located in the community. The new monitors will be used to validate data collected by Flinders Power as well as gather additional air quality information.

The site will be able to monitor total suspended particulates (TSP) – visible dust – as well as finer dust particles PM10 and PM2.5, and meteorology data.

EPA Acting Director Operations Stephen Barry said the new monitors would ensure the community continued to have access to accurate monitoring data in the region. The data would also provide information which can assist in identifying whether the source of dust is from the former power stations ash dam, or is general 'regional' dust from other sources.

"When the monitoring data is received by the EPA, it is reviewed against national standards and the EPA can take regulatory action against a company where the data exceeds the standards. Since reapplication of the dust suppressant on the ash dam, the health-based standards for PM10 have not been exceeded at any of the monitoring stations as a result of dust from the ash dam area," Mr Barry said.

"The Port Augusta community has been very supportive of our air quality monitoring team and I would like to thank the home owner who has hosted our equipment at his Hannagan Street property, as well as Council for allowing us to site our new equipment at Lea Memorial Oval."

The EPA required Flinders Power to increase air quality monitoring in the community after the power stations ceased operation in 2016. Stations are located at Lea Memorial Oval, Port Augusta Hospital, Stirling North, PA Tennis Association and the Pigeon Club. Data is reported to the EPA and all data is published on the EPA website.

The EPA has also been conducting odour monitoring surveys in Port Augusta, following multiple odour complaints received from the community. The surveys have confirmed that the source of the odour is Bird Lake. The EPA is providing support and advice to the Port Augusta City Council to address the odour issue.