

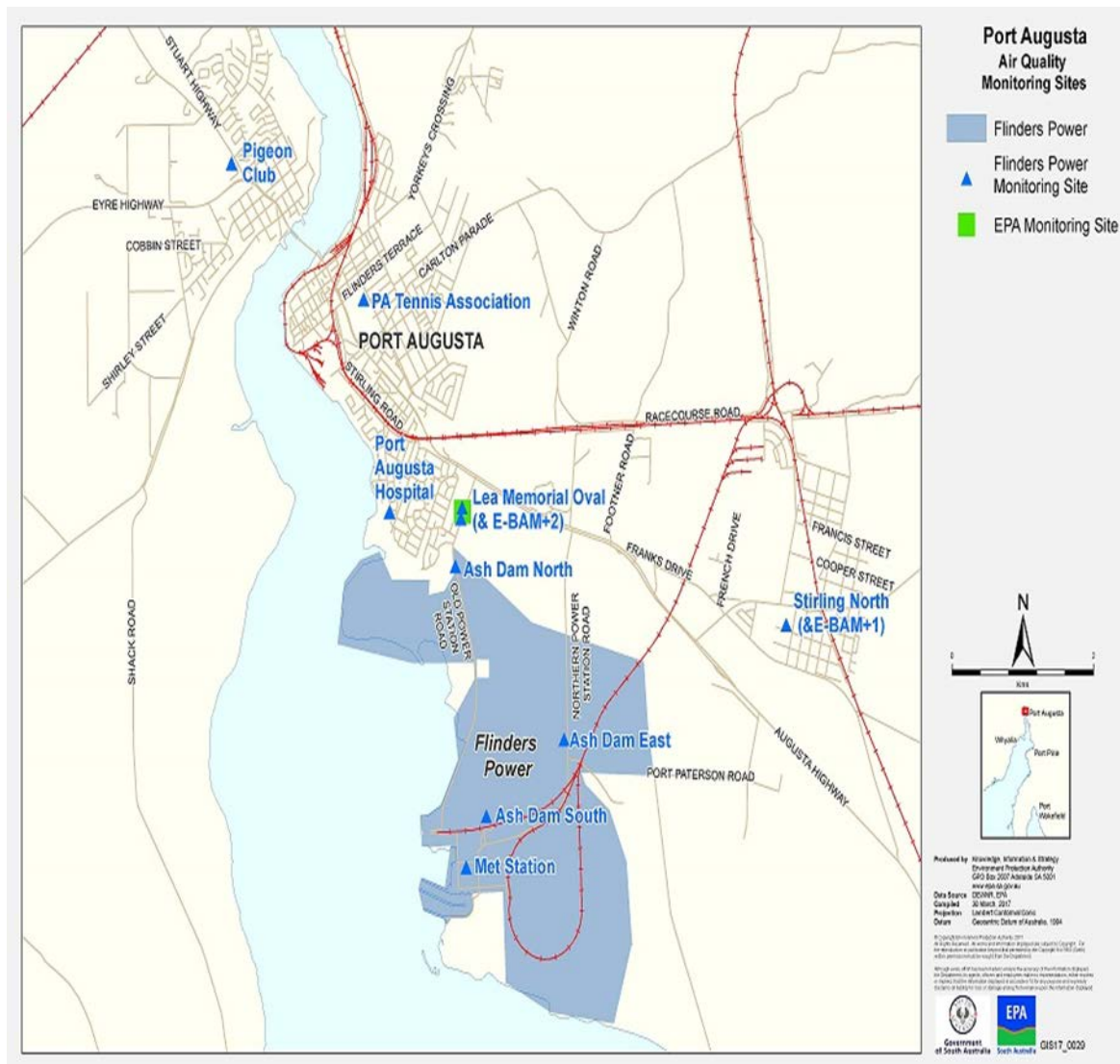
Port Augusta air quality summary report – August 2017

Issued September 2017

Introduction

One of the EPA’s environmental goals is good quality air. To support this goal the EPA conducts ambient air quality monitoring at locations around the state.

This monthly air quality summary report is based on the data from the mobile station at Lea Memorial Oval, Port Augusta.



The EPA mobile monitoring station was installed at Lea Memorial Oval, Port Augusta on 9 March 2017. This station is equipped with continuous monitors for monitoring total suspended particulates (TSP), particles (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and meteorological conditions, as part of a short-term program to evaluate local air quality.

Total suspended particulates (TSP) is a class of particles which have equivalent aerodynamic diameters less than 50 µm and includes a mixture of large and fine particles. The larger particles that have equivalent aerodynamic diameters greater than 10 µm are generally trapped in our noses and throats, so they do not reach to the lungs; however, they may cause nuisance and soiling of surfaces.

Fine particles are often a complex mixture of materials arising from many sources, and are generally grouped into two categories, called PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. Sources such as wind-blown dust, agricultural activities, motor vehicles and domestic activities might generate fine particles that affect the air quality from the region. Fine particles are able to enter the lungs and are known to have health effects.

Polar plot type 1 provides a graphical method to assist in determining the sources of airborne pollutants. Polar plots use 10-minute wind direction data to plot against pollutant concentration. Where the percentage of pollutant is greater than the percentage of wind from any given direction, this indicates a higher than average amount of pollutant and a potential source in that direction.

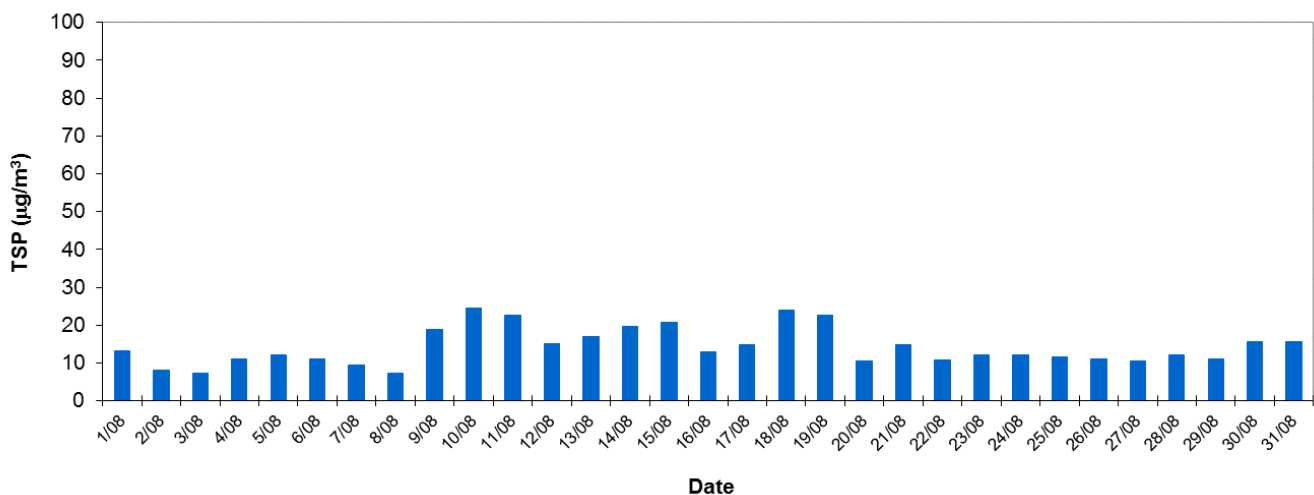
Polar plot type 2 presents 10-minute average concentrations of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} respectively as different colours, plotted against the direction from which the winds were blowing, centred on the monitoring station. Red areas indicate higher average concentrations, while blue areas show very low average concentrations. These colours are scaled and adjusted relative to the highest 10-minute concentration recorded during the month. The distance of the coloured area from the centre of the graph indicates how fast the wind was blowing on average, when the readings were recorded. So the centre point is 'dead calm'. Where 24-hour health-based standards apply, for example, in the case of PM₁₀, these short term averages do not provide direct information about potential health impacts on communities. This is best described in the subsequent graphs of daily averages.

Data in this report are assessed against ground level concentration criteria for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. Further information about ambient air quality is available on the EPA [website](#).

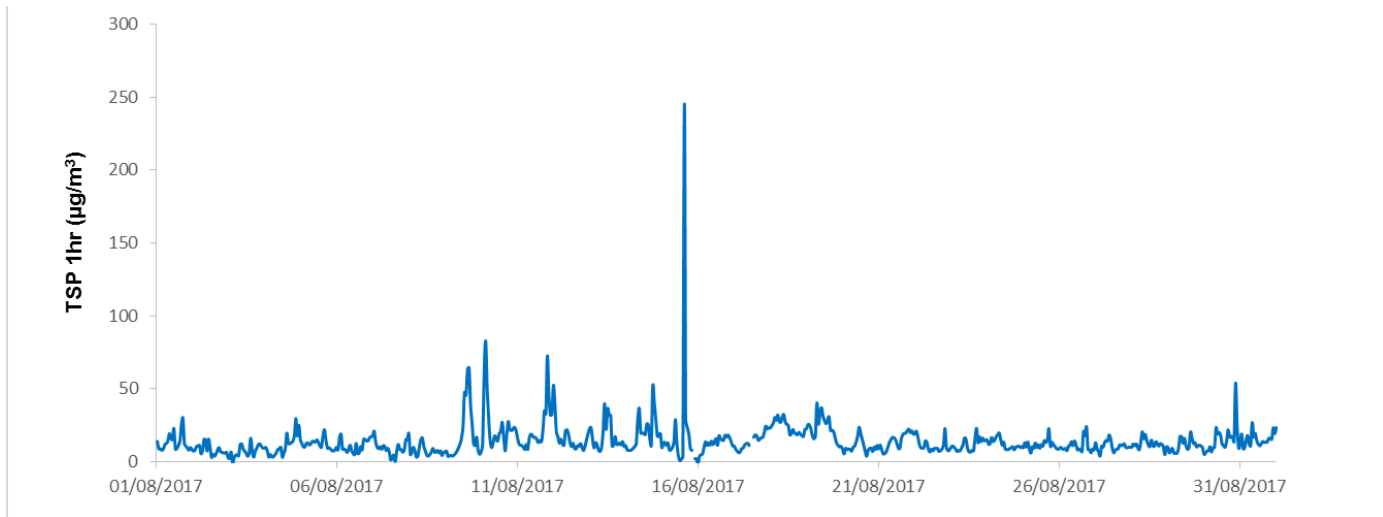
Total suspended particulates (TSP)

TSP can provide an indication of the levels of visible nuisance dust in an area. One-hour averages of TSP levels exhibit short-term elevated values at times, indicating the presence of visible dust. It is important to note that there are no health-based ground level concentration criteria for TSP, as it is largely a cause of environmental nuisance.

The graph below displays the 24-hour average (daily) TSP at Lea Memorial Oval in August 2017.



Port Augusta Lea Memorial Oval daily average TSP, August 2017

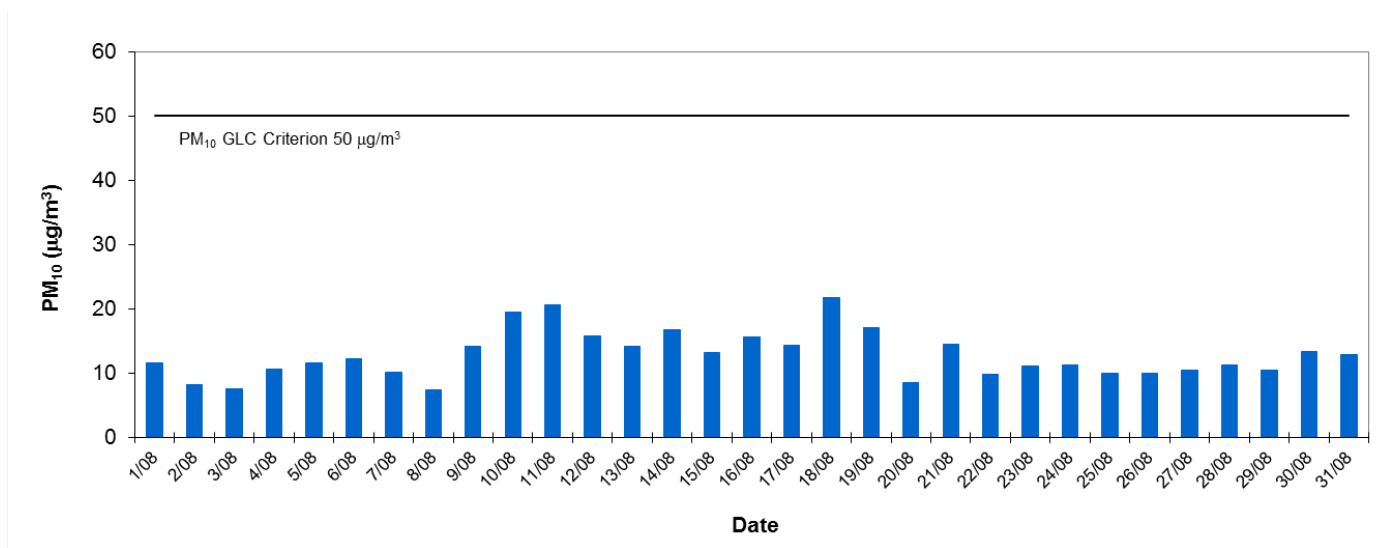


Port Augusta Lea Memorial Oval one-hour TSP, August 2017

There was one high TSP concentration event on 15 August at 3 pm. TSP reached to 245 µg/m³ with wind from a southwest direction (220°) at a wind speed of 2 m/s (4.1 knots).

Particles (PM₁₀)

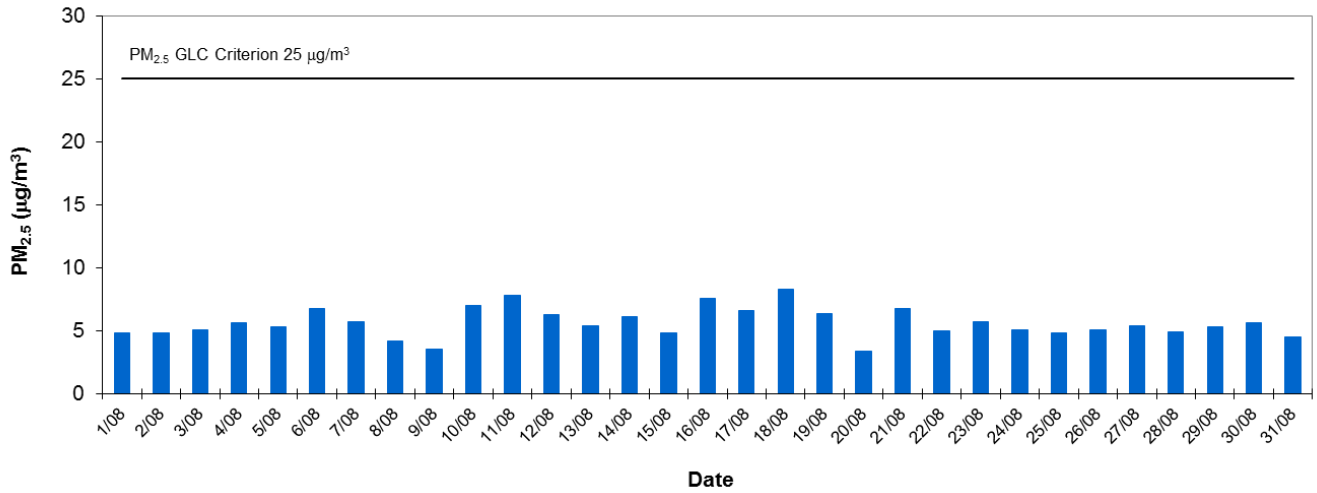
There were no exceedences of the health-based South Australian 24-hour ground level concentration criterion for PM₁₀ (50 µg/m³), at Lea Memorial Oval in August 2017.



Port Augusta Lea Memorial Oval daily average PM₁₀, August 2017

Particles (PM_{2.5})

There were no exceedences of the health-based South Australian 24-hour ground level concentration criterion for PM_{2.5} (25 µg/m³), at Lea Memorial Oval in August 2017

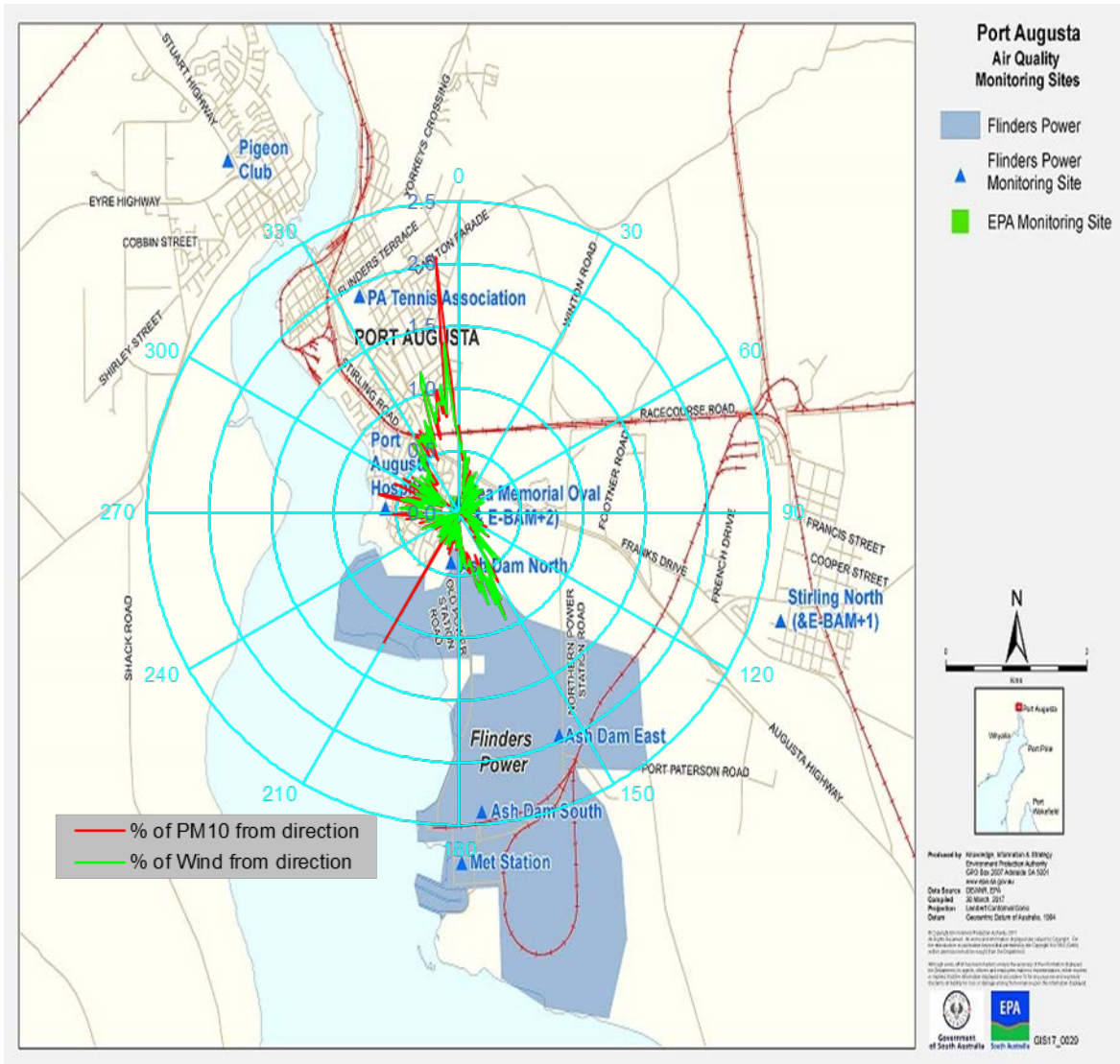


Port Augusta Lea Memorial Oval daily average PM_{2.5}, August 2017

Polar plots

PM₁₀ polar plot

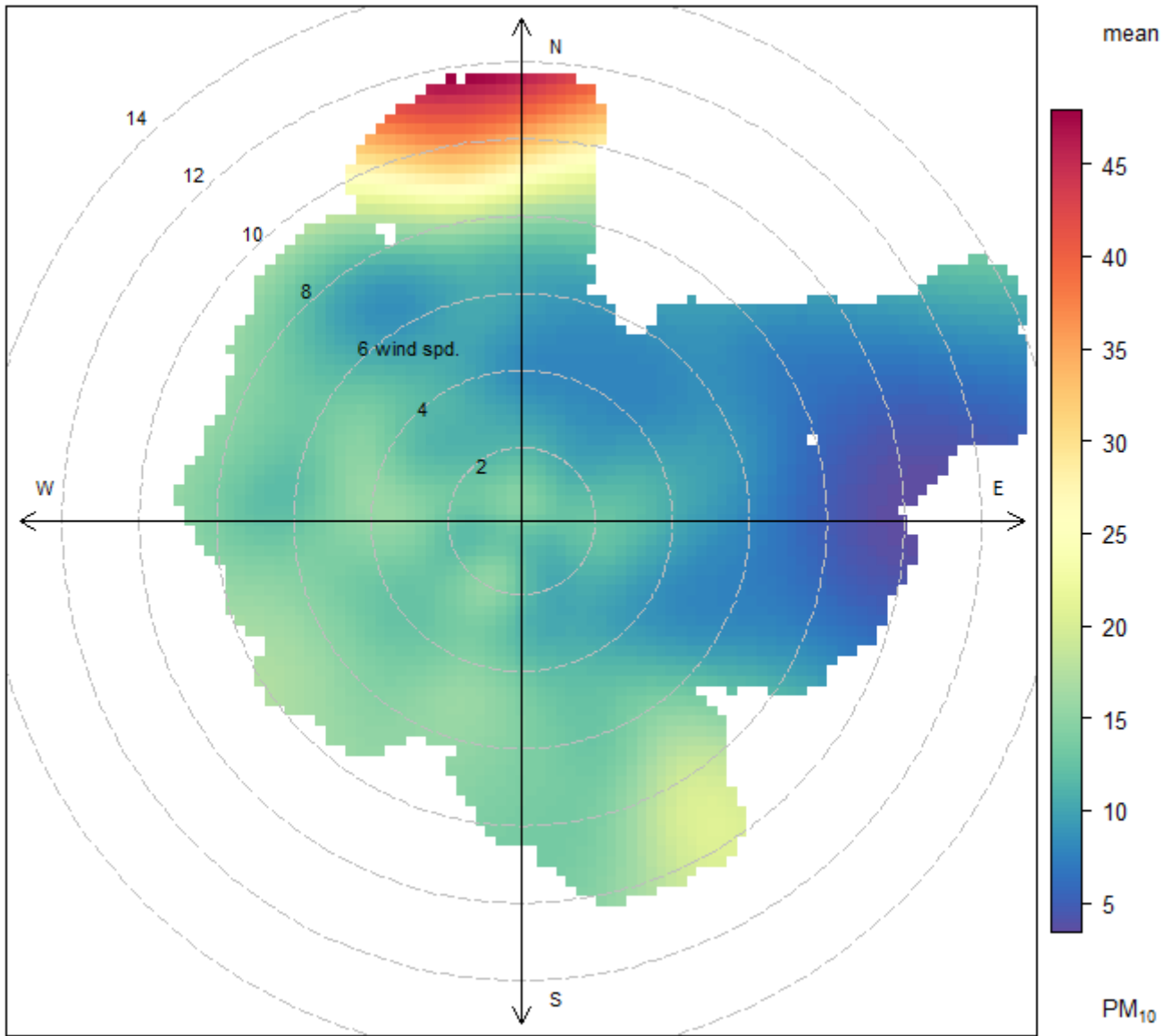
The polar plot Type 1 showed predominately that a higher percentage of PM₁₀ and wind came from the sector of 330 to 360° (north–northwest direction). At a time where a percentage of PM₁₀ particle was higher than a percentage of wind which came from a south west direction that indicates the source of PM₁₀ particle is localised dust.



Polar plot Type 1

Polar plot Type 2

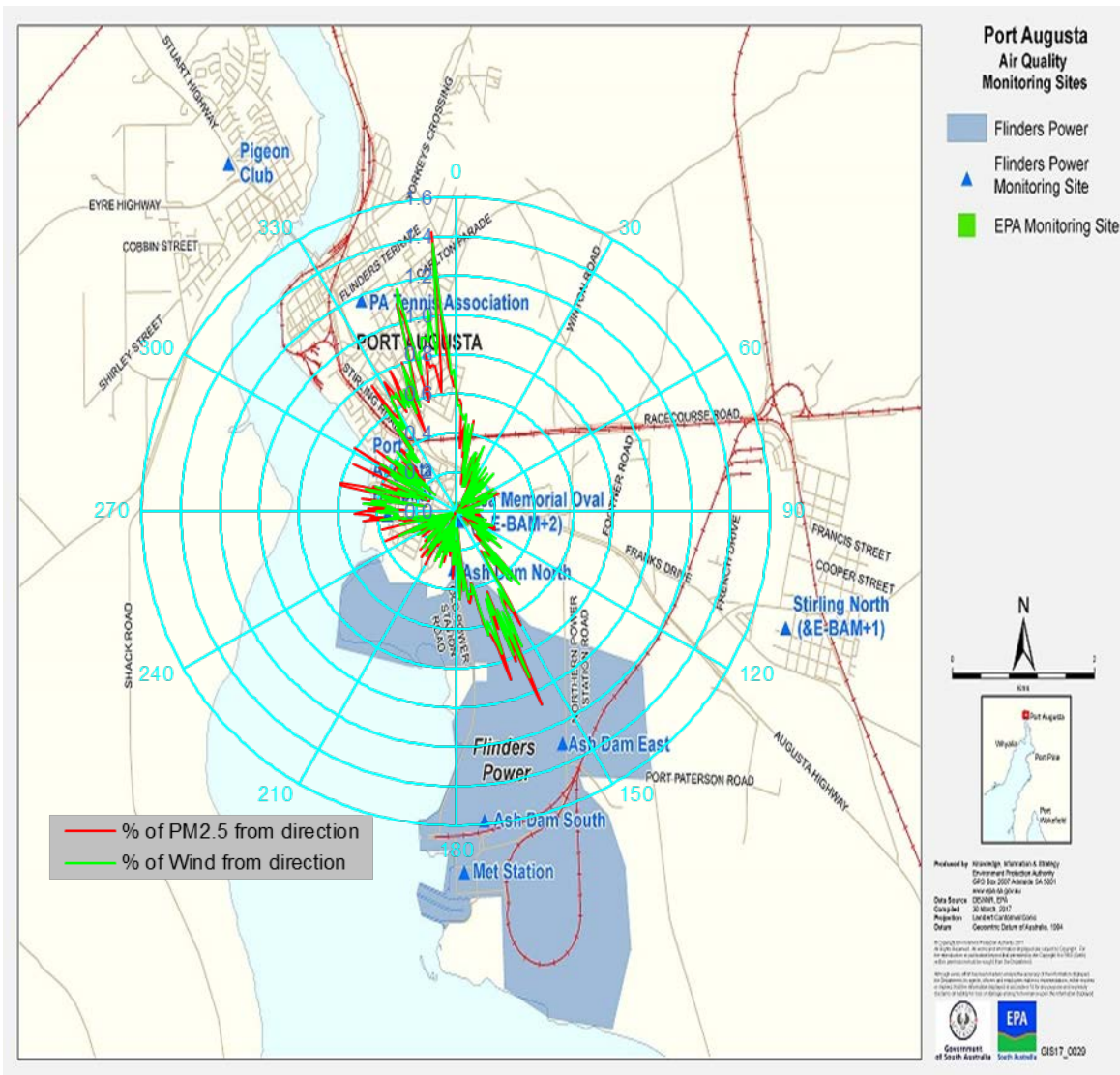
Polar plot type 2 showed that there was a strong wind event (10–12 m/s) from a north–northwest direction which caused moderate PM₁₀ concentration.



Polar plot Type 2

PM_{2.5} polar plot

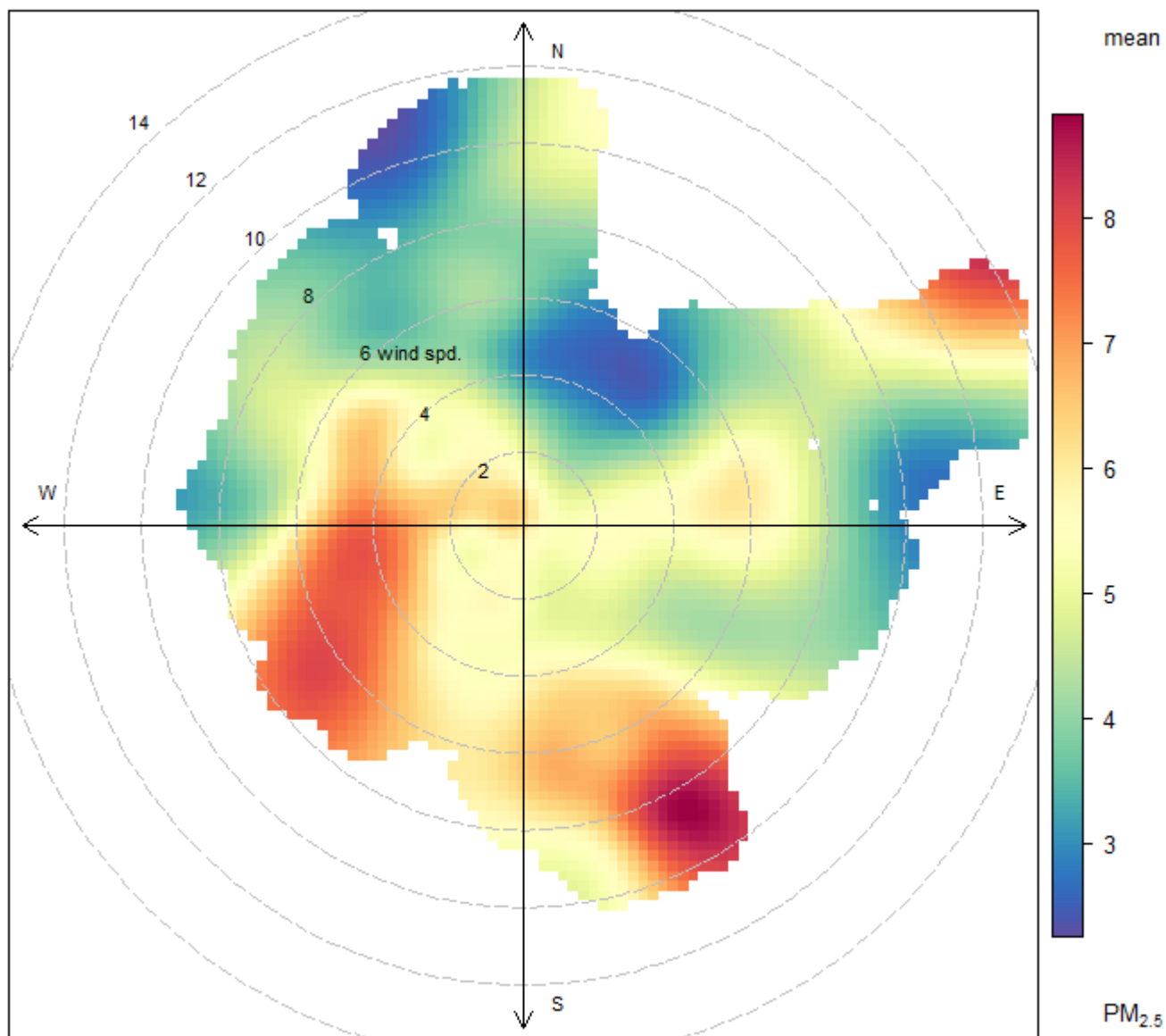
The polar plot Type 1 showed that predominant wind came from the two wind sectors of 300 to 360° (north–northwest direction) and 150 to 180° (south–southeast direction) and majority of PM_{2.5} came from these wind directions.



Polar plot Type 1

Polar plot Type 2

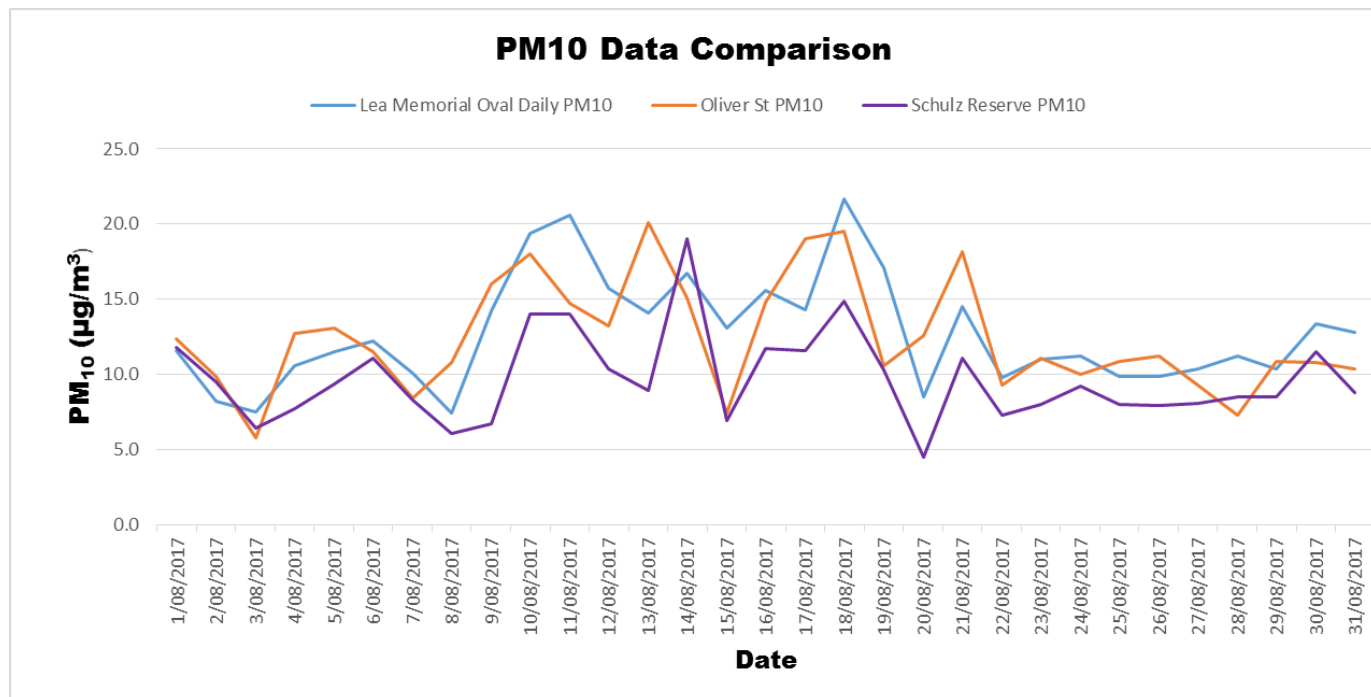
Polar plot Type 2 showed that a high proportion of PM_{2.5} particle originated when wind speed was above 6 m/s from south southeast, south southwest and east directions.



Polar plot Type 2

PM₁₀ data comparison

PM₁₀ data from Lea Memorial Oval, Oliver Street (Port Pirie) and Schulz Reserve (Whyalla) stations are presented in the following graph. PM₁₀ levels at Lea Memorial Oval station have exhibited a similar trend and concentrations to the other two stations during the monitoring period.



Further information

Legislation

[Online legislation](#) is freely available. Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Service SA Government Legislation Outlet
 Adelaide Service SA Centre
 108 North Terrace
 Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: 13 23 24
 Facsimile: (08) 8204 1909
 Website: shop.service.sa.gov.au
 Email: ServiceSAcustomerservice@sa.gov.au

General information

Environment Protection Authority
 GPO Box 2607
 Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8204 2004
 Facsimile: (08) 8124 4670
 Freecall: 1800 623 445 (country)
 Website: www.epa.sa.gov.au
 Email: epainfo@sa.gov.au