



Media release



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Tuesday, 11 December 2018

Port Augusta dust reduction

The Environment Protection Authority is ensuring steps are in place to manage dust at Port Augusta's former power station site this summer.

EPA Director Regulation Peter Dolan said staff regularly visited Port Augusta and had conducted an inspection of the site in November.

"Vegetation cover is increasing and dust suppressant has been used to target high-risk areas for dust ahead of the coming summer," Mr Dolan said.

"The suppressant will help reduce dust from the site without inhibiting plant growth.

"We had a few days with high wind last month, but both our inspection and air quality monitoring data indicate the suppressant is doing its job."

The sites stopped generating power in May 2016, and under the terms of its EPA licence, Flinders Power is required to implement a closure plan that includes rehabilitation of the ash dam and decommissioning and decontamination of the coal burning equipment.

One of the licence conditions Flinders Power must meet is the implementation of a dust management plan for the sites, which includes minimising dust produced during work, applying dust suppressant and monitoring of weather conditions.

The management plan is periodically updated to ensure it takes into account any changed conditions at the site and the EPA has requested that Flinders Power review the plan this month

Mr Dolan said it was important to remember that not all dust affecting the town originated from the former power station.

"As everyone who lives in Port Augusta knows, the surrounding landscape gets very dry in summer and dust can be a problem when the wind picks up," he said.

"The power station sites are south of town, so if the wind is blowing from the north or west, any dust you see can only be coming from inland."

For more information on licence conditions relating to the rehabilitation of the former power station sites, including the latest dust management plan, visit

https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/business_and_industry/industry-updates/flinders-power-port-augusta

For health advice on dust, please visit www.sahealth.sa.gov.au and search for 'Dust and your health fact sheet'.

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