



Media release



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Southern dust study under way

Four monitoring stations are collecting real-time air quality data in the Lonsdale and Hallett Cove area as part of an ongoing dust study.

Environment Protection Authority Principal Scientific Officer, Air Quality, Dr Pushan Shah, said community members were also feeding in their own observations, photos and videos using an online reporting tool.

“Residents have been concerned about dust in the area for some time,” Dr Shah said.

“We worked with the community to determine the best places to position monitoring equipment and have placed three of the stations on private properties, while the fourth collects control data in the Lonsdale Industrial Precinct.

“The stations are constantly gathering information on the size of airborne dust particles and weather conditions like wind speed and direction to help us to identify potential sources of dust.”

Dr Shah said it was important to measure the size of the particles in the area, as large and small particles affected people and the environment differently.

“Smaller particles can penetrate deeper into the lungs, with the potential to affect human health – especially that of children, older people and those with respiratory illnesses,” he said.

“Larger particles can also cause irritation to the respiratory system, as well as affecting the amenity of the area by collecting on cars, outdoor furniture and other surfaces.

“Community reports are vital to the study, as they can be compared with the real-time data when we measure it against local and regional dust events.”

The EPA has already conducted several community workshops to share information on the study and early results, with the next workshop scheduled for 11 December.

The dust study is expected to conclude in July 2020.

For more information on the study, including viewing the live monitoring data and community reports, visit www.engage.epa.sa.gov.au/Lonsdale-and-Hallett-Cove