

Thursday, 4 June 2020

Temporary dust monitoring equipment to be removed from Port Augusta

A temporary EPA air quality monitoring station, that was established after Port Augusta was impacted by heavy dust in January 2017, will be removed from its location at Lea Memorial Oval.

The monitor has been used to track air quality impacts to the township during the closure of the Port Augusta power stations and has remained while rehabilitation works have been undertaken, such as the soil capping of the former ash dams.

As a requirement of EPA licence, Flinders Power also installed its own monitoring equipment in 2017, with a monitor located at Stirling North and another co-located with the Lea Memorial Oval EPA monitor.

Ownership of the site has since transferred from Flinders Power to Cu-River Mining Australia, with Cu-River taking on all EPA licence obligations relating to site remediation and air quality monitoring.

The EPA has compared the EPA and Cu-River monitoring results at Lea Memorial Oval since 2017 and is satisfied that the Cu-River air quality monitor is sufficient to monitor ongoing air quality. This will enable the EPA temporary monitoring station to be moved to another location in South Australia to assess air quality.

Cu-River will continue to monitor the air quality, report results to the EPA and publish air quality data on its website.

Any proposed changes to the usage of the site by Cu-River that may produce an increased risk of dust will require EPA approval and consideration of any additional monitoring requirements.