

2015 National Air Pollution Summit Program

Saturday 14 November 9.00am – 5.00pm

Venue: Queen Victoria Women's Centre, 210 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Australia needs better air pollution laws. Air pollution causes over twice the number of fatalities as the road toll each year in Australia. Government estimates put the health cost at \$8 billion per year for greater Sydney alone. However, we still don't have the scientifically based air pollution standards supported by law enforcement that will deliver clean air to local communities. Communities are struggling with the health impacts and the costs of toxic air pollution, but where is the political commitment to meaningful law reform?

While environment ministers have signalled this as a critical national issue, movement towards the laws we need has been limited. With the environment ministers meeting in December to decide on a Clean Air Agreement, this Summit will be a springboard for a new national network of groups taking coordinated action on air pollution law reform – a Clean Air Action Network. We will review progress since our 2014 Summit and discuss what is required now to ensure Australians have access to the air quality we deserve.

Thank you and congratulations for taking part in this exciting Summit. We look forward discussing how we best take **this** issue forward together.



Getting There

The National Air Pollution Summit is a fully catered event.

Getting to the Summit

The Queen Victoria Women's Centre is centrally located in Melbourne's CBD at 210 Lonsdale St.

Disability Access

Access is via Lonsdale Street. A ramp to the rear entrance of the building runs along the western (left hand) side.

By Car

Visitors can find metered parking on Lonsdale and Russell Streets. Alternatively, the QV shopping precinct (180 Lonsdale St) offers parking for a flat rate on the weekends.

By Train

QVWC is conveniently located close to Melbourne Central train station, which services all train lines.

By Tram

QVWC is accessible via tram routes 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 16, 22, 64, 67 and 72, which stop at the corner of Swanston and Lonsdale Streets.

By Bus

QVWC is serviced by bus routes 201, 202, 203, 302, 305, 318, 605, 906, 907 and 908, which stop on Lonsdale St, near Swanston St.

Register now: <https://envirojustice.org.au/2015-air-pollution-summit>

Presenters



Senator Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Australian Greens

Richard Di Natale was elected to the federal parliament in 2010 and has been the leader of the Greens since May. He is the Greens' first Victorian Senator and his portfolios include health, multiculturalism, youth, gambling and sport. Richard was a GP and public health specialist before he entered Parliament and is passionate about preventative health care and responding to the health impacts of global warming. He has worked in Aboriginal health in the Northern Territory, HIV prevention in India and in the drug and alcohol sector. Richard cares about our communities – that means accessible health and education services, state of the art transport, a safety net which ensures people are not left behind, a safe climate, clean air and water and a thriving natural environment. Richard, his wife Lucy and two young sons live on an off-the-grid, working farm in the foothills of Victoria's Otway Range. The son of Italian migrants, Richard grew up in Melbourne.



Dr Ben Ewald, Doctors for the Environment Australia

Dr Ben Ewald is a GP in Newcastle, and an academic with the School of Medicine and Public Health where he teaches epidemiology and researches questions arising from general practice.



Fiona Armstrong, Climate Health Alliance

Fiona Armstrong is Founder and Executive Director of the Climate and Health Alliance, a founding director of CLIMARTE: Arts for a Safe Climate, a Fellow of the Centre for Policy Development, and an Associate of the Melbourne Sustainable Societies Institute at the University of Melbourne. She is the author of a number of seminal publications in the areas of climate, energy and health, including the 2015 report: *Coal and Health in the Hunter: Lessons from One Valley for the World*; producer of the short film, *The Human Cost of Power*, directed by award winning science journalist, Alexandra de Blas; lead author of the 2014 Health and Energy Choices Position Paper and Background Paper; author of the 2012 report, *Our Uncashed Dividend: The Health Benefits of Climate Action*, published by the Climate and Health Alliance and The Climate Institute; and author of 'Shifting from Fear to Hope,' published in the book, *More Than Luck: Ideas Australia Needs Now*. Fiona's personal story of how she came to be involved in advocacy for climate action appears in the 2015 book: *Guarding Eden: Champions of Climate Action* by Deborah Hart.



Clare Walter, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Clare Walter is a clinical pharmacist specialised in oncology. The interest in air pollution arose after working with lung cancer patients for over a decade in the UK and then Australia, and noting with alarm the rising incidence of lung adenocarcinoma in a younger non-smoking patient population. Clare is currently working on engaging health professionals to play a stronger role in air pollution advocacy, establishing anti-idling policies outside schools and measuring the impact air pollution has on lung cancer incidence in Australia.



Dr Dorothy Robinson, Australian Air Quality Group

Dr Dorothy Robinson is a professional statistician who became interested in air pollution after moving to Armidale, where poor house design and construction created homes with high heating costs and very unhealthy woodsmoke pollution. She was a founding member of a research group funded by the local council and the NSW EPA that pioneered techniques to map the distribution of woodsmoke pollution in the valley and estimate the health consequences. The research group morphed into the Australian Air Quality Group with the aim of helping people understand the health effects of air pollution and help prevent thousands of Australians from dying prematurely every year because of unnecessary air pollution.



Dr Nicholas Aberle, Environment Victoria

Dr Nicholas Aberle is Safe Climate Campaign Manager with Environment Victoria. His work covers a number of campaigns dealing with climate change in Victoria, focusing mainly on the four big coal-fired power stations that are responsible for 50% of the state's greenhouse gas emissions. Before joining Environment Victoria, Nick spent three years at the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability developing Victoria's 5-yearly State of the Environment Report. He founded the Environmental Film Festival Melbourne, as a way of engaging people on important issues in an accessible way. In a previous career Nick worked in medical research.



Michael Kane, Clean Air Queensland

Michael Kane is an experienced community organiser, recently working with Lock the Gate and Clean Air Queensland and has been assisting communities in south east Queensland to be proactive about air quality issues and coal pollution from mines, stockpiles and trains. Michael is currently involved in a court action against the New Hope Coal mine on the Darling Downs relating to air quality issues.

Presenters



Patricia Julien, Mackay Conservation Group

Patricia Julien has worked with Mackay Conservation Group, a regional ENGO, since 2003 and now focuses on research for the group. She covers the impacts of coal mines in the Bowen and Galilee coal mines on biodiversity and communities in the Burdekin and Northern Fitzroy River Basins as well as nationally significant wetlands in the region including the coal ports at Abbot Point and Hay Point in the Great Barrier Reef. The group has been able to raise community awareness locally of the issue of hazardous coal dust and get some response from port authorities. Patricia has a M.A. in Physical Geography, Univ. Illinois in Chicago and a M.S. in Rangeland Ecology and Hydrology.



Dr James Whelan, Environmental Justice Australia

Dr James Whelan is a researcher and community organiser with Environmental Justice Australia. James has been a non-government advocate on air quality issues since the mid 1990s. He represented environment groups in the development of the National Environment Protection Measures for Ambient Air Quality and the National Pollutant Inventory and has been a member of several advisory groups overseeing air quality management strategies and regulations. James convenes the Hunter Dust and Health Committee.



Philip Hill, Environmental Justice Australia

Phil Hill is the campaign lead for the Clean Air Campaign with Environmental Justice Australia. He is a lawyer with experience gained in senior roles in private practice and government. Phil has a background in government law, litigation and regulatory management. Phil is an experienced social justice and environmental campaigner working on issues such as native forests, public transport, cycling safety and youth policy. Phil has a keen interest in assisting pollution-affected communities to pursue legal strategies and remedies for pollution abatement.



Martin Wurt, Maribyrnong Truck Action Group

Martin is secretary of MTAG – the Maribyrnong Truck Action Group. MTAG is a local community group campaigning to get freight trucks from the Port of Melbourne off residential streets in Melbourne's Inner West. The trucks are a major source of diesel-related air pollution as well as posing a safety issue for residents. Martin has been campaigning on this issue for close to 15 years.



James Grugeon

James Grugeon is a former CEO of Environmental Protection UK, one of the UK's oldest environmental NGOs, where he brought together a coalition of health and environmental NGOs, charities and academics to form the Health Air Campaign. The campaign continues to lobby in the UK and Europe for stronger action on air pollution. James has worked in leadership and senior management roles for a number of organisations ranging from GetUp to renewable energy company Powershop in Australia and from the 10:10 climate change campaign to a big bank in the UK. He's passionate about action on climate change and has set up and delivered large and high profile environmental projects and campaigns here and in the UK, building strong and diverse partnerships to secure their funding and successful delivery.

Summit Agenda

9.00 – 9.30

Opening

9.30 – 10.00

Opening Remarks

Senator Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Australian Greens

10.00 – 10.45

Setting the scene: Australia's regulatory framework for reducing air pollution

- Varying the Ambient Air NEPM
- The case for a national air pollution control act
- State government pollution regulation

10.45 - 11.00

Morning Tea

11.00 - 12.00	Health Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clare Walter, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre: Cleaner Air, Less Cancer • Dr Ben Ewald, Doctors for the Environment Australia: The health benefits of achieving the proposed particle pollution standards • Fiona Armstrong, Climate and Health Alliance Executive Director: The health costs of air pollution: Hunter Valley case study <p>Facilitated discussion</p>
12.00 – 12.20	Learning from the UK clean air campaign <p>James Grugeon, former CEO of Environmental Protection UK</p>
12.20 - 12.40	Pollution monitoring: techniques and equipment for regulators and citizen scientists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Ben Ewald, Doctors for the Environment Australia • Dr Dorothy Robinson, Australian Air Quality Group
12.40 - 12.45	Summit media statement
12.45 - 1.15	Lunch
1.15 - 2.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazelwood mine fire and Latrobe Valley power stations Dr Nicholas Aberle, Environment Victoria • Minimising air pollution from coal in Central Queensland Patricia Julien, Mackay Conservation Group • Why effective measures to tackle woodsmoke pollution will benefit everyone’s health Dr Dorothy Robinson, Australian Air Quality Group • Dirty Diesel, the trucks poisoning Melbourne’s Inner West Martin Wurt, Maribyrnong Truck Action Group
2.45 – 3.00	Afternoon Tea
3.00 – 3.20	Citizen Science reveals coal pollution in South East Queensland Michael Kane, Clean Air Queensland
3.20 – 4.00	Proposals for collaborative campaigns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The campaign for an Australian Air Pollution Control Act • Stricter particle pollution standards • National Clean Air Agreement • Using the 2016 National Pollutant Inventory to shine a light on pollution hotspots <p>Small group discussions (concurrent) to dig deeper into each proposal and develop action plans.</p>
4.00 - 5.00	Plenary discussion: building a powerful national clean air action network
5.00	Close