

Petition to get back air quality monitoring across the Blue Mountains and Lithgow

To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales.

This Petition of residents and visitors to the Blue Mountains and Lithgow brings the following to the attention of the House.

In 2017 local community groups concerned about air pollution consulted with the EPA. It resulted in the first air quality monitoring across parts of the Blue Mountains and Lithgow using 11 KOALAs (Knowing our Ambient Local Air-Quality) and one Pod. This occurred in May 2019 for a period of 12 months.

The EPA air quality website received 50,000 hits prior to and during unprecedented bushfires in 2019-20 giving residents near real-time readings on hazardous bushfire smoke.

The Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park hosts approximately 5 million visitors each year. People were able to obtain public, near real-

time readings of air pollution from the EPA website. It was used by local schools in assessing safety for outside breaks and in curriculum studies.

This has been vital information for the young, those suffering medical conditions in our community and among visitors, at quite limited cost.

Despite broad community, local government and Local Member requests for the monitors to stay the NSW Environmental Protection Authority removed all 12 Air Pollution Monitors from Lithgow, Katoomba, Wentworth Falls and Springwood in June 2020.

A recent government bushfire inquiry noted over 440 premature deaths in 2019-20 and more long-term health effects were attributed to bushfire smoke. Bushfire smoke kills and is a threat to

human health.

Two recent Parliamentary and Government bushfire inquiries recommend air quality monitoring in bushfire prone areas.

The EPA predicts both road and rail freight transport across the Blue Mountains will increase in the future, further challenging our communities' air quality. Blue Mountains and Lithgow AirWatch Project provided air-quality data during a prolonged and catastrophic bushfire event.

Continuing and extending the project will provide further data essential to communities, and State and local government planning into the future, for health research, tourism and for community safety from bushfire smoke.

The petitioners, signed below, ask the NSW Legislative Assembly to call on the NSW Government to urgently reintroduce and expand air quality monitoring across the Blue Mountains and Lithgow.

Name	Address	Signature

Please return signed petitions in blue or black pen to **Air Watch Campaign**: D. Smith, 52-52A Great Western Hwy, Mount Victoria, NSW, 2786.
Copies without the residential address of the signatory will not be accepted by the NSW Parliament.

