

Bush Fire Smoke Kills

Bring back our Air Pollution Monitors - removed by the NSW Government from Lithgow and the Blue Mountains

Bush fire smoke is a known killer. More than 400 hundred people died and over 4000 people were admitted to hospital suffering the effects of bush fire smoke during Black Summer.

Knowing the quality of the air we breathe saves lives.

We believe every citizen has the right to real time local air pollution information. In Lithgow and the Blue Mountains, we had eleven monitors known as KOALAs (Know our Ambient Local Air Quality) and a monitoring POD.

Despite proving their worth as an essential health tool with 50,000 hits on the EPA's Air Watch web site, the NSW government removed all the monitors in June 2020, ignoring calls to extend the Air Watch Project beyond 12 months.

Since then the need for accessible local air pollution monitoring has been recommended by two major bushfire inquiries.

Blue Mountains MP Trish Doyle said, "Given the devastating Black Summer we have just experienced, and the [Environment] Minister's [Matt Kean] own acknowledgment of climate change being a contributing factor, one would think the government might care about future planning by measuring air quality over a number of seasons".

Dr Yuming Guo head of Monash University's Climate and Research Unit said toxic air could easily become the silent killer of Australia's climate catastrophe. In the short term, this kind of pollution could increase the risk of death, hospital admissions, emergency department visits and ambulance calls. In the long term it might be associated with shortened life expectancy and the development of respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, dementia, as well as mental health problems and adverse birth outcomes.

Join the Air Watch Campaign

TO RESTORE AND EXTEND AIR POLLUTION MONITORS IN LITHGOW AND ACROSS THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

[Blue Mountains & Lithgow AirWatch Facebook group](#)

Sign the Petition

<https://l.ead.me/airwatch>

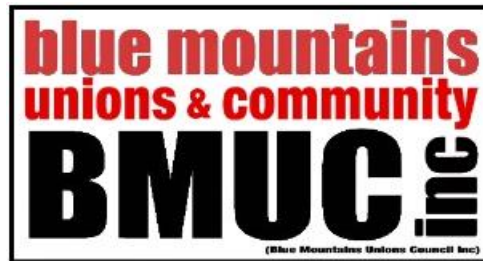
Email the Environment Minister Matt Kean

<mailto:hornsbey@parliament.nsw.gov.au>



So far our campaign for air monitoring in Lithgow and the Blue Mountains has been supported by:

- *Blue Mountains City Council,*
- *Blue Mountains Conservation Society,*
- *Lithgow Environment Group,*
- *Doctors for the Environment,*
- *NSW Teachers Federation (Blue Mountains Branch),*
- *Health Services Union,*
- *NSW Nurses and Midwives Association and the*
- *Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils.*



We are a non-profit community group of Blue Mountains residents. We are for unionism, social justice and protecting the environment. We are best known as the organisers of Politics in the Pub at the Family Hotel in Katoomba. We host a community radio show, "Rights, Rorts and Rants" on Radio Blue Mountains 89.1FM from 4pm to 6pm on Fridays.

You can find links to all of our online material, including our website, social media, podcasts, membership application form and radio guest application at lead.me/bmuc.

Air Watch media enquiries: Peter Lammiman 0410 153 157