



# COVER **COAL** WAGONS NOT OUR KIDS' FACES

## COMMUNITY PETITION

**IN PARTS OF EUROPE AND THE USA, COAL TRAIN WAGONS ARE COVERED AND WASHED TO PREVENT PARTICLE POLLUTION.**

# WHY NOT IN THE **WORLD'S BIGGEST COAL PORT?**

**AND IN ALL NSW COAL-AFFECTED  
COMMUNITIES INCLUDING:**

**NEWCASTLE, HUNTER VALLEY, LAKE MACQUARIE, CENTRAL COAST,  
SYDNEY, BLUE MOUNTAINS, WOLLONGONG, GUNNDAH & LITHGOW?**

**OUR AIM:** WE WANT THE COAL INDUSTRY TO COVER AND WASH ALL LOADED AND UNLOADED COAL WAGONS. **10,000 SIGNATURES ON THIS PETITION** WILL START THE PROCESS BY **TRIGGERING A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE.**

**FIND OUT MORE: [WWW.HCEC.ORG.AU/COVERTHEWAGONS](http://WWW.HCEC.ORG.AU/COVERTHEWAGONS)**



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## TEN **GOOD REASONS** TO COVER COAL WAGONS

1. MORE THAN 100 COAL TRAINS PASS THROUGH NEWCASTLE AND THE LOWER HUNTER EACH DAY. THAT'S MORE THAN 4 MILLION COAL WAGONS EACH YEAR.
2. IN THE LOWER HUNTER, 31,329 PEOPLE LIVE WITHIN 500 METRES OF UNCOVERED COAL WAGONS. THAT INCLUDES 14% OF THE NEWCASTLE POPULATION. UNCOVERED COAL TRAINS ALSO PASS THROUGH SUBURBAN AREAS IN LAKE MACQUARIE AND THE CENTRAL COAST, WOLLONGONG AND SYDNEY.
3. COAL DUST IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF PARTICLE POLLUTION AND CONTRIBUTES TO A RANGE OF RESPIRATORY AND CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH PROBLEMS INCLUDING ASTHMA AND PREMATURE DEATH.
4. THE NATIONAL STANDARD FOR PM10 (PARTICLES UP TO 50 MICRONS IN DIAMETER) IS 50 MICROGRAMS PER CUBIC METRE. COMMUNITY GROUPS IN NEWCASTLE MONITORED PM10 LEVELS OF UP TO THREE TIMES THIS LEVEL IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS DURING 2013. POLLUTION LEVELS INCREASED BY UP TO 1300% AS COAL TRAINS PASSED BY.
5. EMPTY COAL TRAINS ARE EVEN MORE POLLUTING THAN LOADED COAL TRAINS.
6. DURING 2013, THE COAL INDUSTRY TWICE MONITORED POLLUTION FROM COAL WAGONS. BOTH STUDIES CONFIRMED THAT COAL TRAINS INCREASE PARTICLE POLLUTION SIGNIFICANTLY. INSTEAD OF INSTRUCTING THE MINING INDUSTRY TO COVER WAGONS, THE NSW ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY COVERED UP THE STUDIES' FINDINGS.
7. IN PARTS OF EUROPE AND THE USA, COAL WAGONS ARE COVERED AND WASHED TO PREVENT PARTICLE POLLUTION.
8. THE 2013 SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF AIR QUALITY HEARD FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION THAT MORE PEOPLE DIE FROM AIR POLLUTION IN AUSTRALIA EACH YEAR THAN FROM MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS. THE SENATE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT STATE GOVERNMENTS INSTRUCT THE COAL INDUSTRY TO COVER WAGONS.
9. BETWEEN 1% AND 3% OF THE COAL LOADED INTO A WAGON IS LOST IN TRANSIT BETWEEN THE MINES AND PORTS. WAGON COVERS WOULD STOP THIS LOSS, IMPROVE FUEL EFFICIENCY, PREVENT BALLAST CONTAMINATION ON THE TRAIN TRACKS AND IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH.
10. COVERING COAL WAGONS IS NOT EXPENSIVE. THE COAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATES THE COST TO COVER WAGONS AT \$5-10 PER TRIP PER WAGON. EACH COAL WAGON HOLDS 100 TONNES OF COAL PER TRIP, AND EACH TONNE SELLS FOR \$80. BASED ON AN AVERAGE COST OF \$8 PER TRIP, THE ADDED COST REPRESENTS LESS THAN ONE THOUSANDTH OF THE SALE PRICE OF THE COAL.

**YOUR TARGET:**  
**150 SIGNATURES**

**THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!**

**PLEASE RETURN SIGNED PETITIONS BY 16 MARCH TO:**  
HUNTER COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE  
169 PARRY STREET, HAMILTON EAST 2303

**OR PHONE TO ARRANGE COLLECTION:** 0424 026 056



# PETITION: COVER COAL WAGONS

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

The Petition of residents of the State of New South Wales brings to the attention of the House our concern that particle pollution from coal wagons is causing serious health problems. Millions of uncovered coal wagons pass through residential areas, exposing community members to elevated levels of particle pollution and causing a range of cardiovascular and respiratory health problems. The 2013 Senate Inquiry into the Health Impacts of Air Quality recommended that state governments instruct the coal industry to cover coal wagons.

**The undersigned petitioners therefore ask the Legislative Assembly to direct the coal industry to cover and wash all loaded and unloaded coal wagons.**

SIGNATURE	NAME	ADDRESS	POST- CODE	EMAIL Please write clearly in capitals