



MEDIA RELEASE

AIR QUALITY MONITORING – A VICTORY FOR RESIDENTS IN THE NAMOI VALLEY

The Chair of the Association of Mining Related Councils NSW (AMRC), Councillor Peter Shinton said today: “The implementation of the new Air Quality Monitoring System to commence by the end of the year in the Namoi Valley in Gunnedah and Narrabri, announced by the Minister for the Environment Gabrielle Upton at the Clean Air Summit recently, is welcomed”.

“This is a victory for the hard working delegates at AMRC, who have been lobbying Ministers and senior government officials for many years on behalf of the concerned residents and Councils they represent” Councillor Shinton said.

Councillor Shinton commented further by saying: “In particular, Councillor Owen Hasler, Executive Committee member of the AMRC from Gunnedah Shire Council, and former delegates from Narrabri Shire Council, were tireless in their pursuit of a solution such as expanding the Air Quality Monitoring System to address resident concerns about the impact of mining on ambient air quality in the Namoi Valley on their health”.

“Consequently it is pleasing to see that the lobbying has finally paid off to ensure that the residents in the Namoi Valley can have the same Air Monitoring Systems and expectation of good health similar to their Hunter Valley counterparts, where these Air Quality Monitoring Systems have been operating for some years” Councillor Shinton said.

“We can now have some confidence that the background ambient air quality data will help the government and miners to assess impacts on our local communities, assist them in improving on site management practices and better manage cumulative effects so the health of residents is not adversely affected by coal dust” Councillor Shinton said.

Enquiries: Chair AMRC, Councillor Peter Shinton on 02 6849 2000, Mayor Warrumbungle Shire Council or the Executive Officer Greg Lamont on 0407937636 or email to info@miningrelatedcouncils.asn.au.