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MEDIA RELEASE

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Delays on dust response unacceptable|

The lack of response to North Queensland Conservation Council's (NQCC's) report on toxic dust in children's playgrounds in inner Townsville is totally unacceptable, according to NQCC Coordinator Wendy Tubman.

'The Department of the Environment and Queensland Health were provided with a copy of the report at a private briefing on 4 December, prior to the public release of the report.

'Despite numerous conversations, emails and phone calls, neither department has come back with any response.

'They seem keen to deny the findings, and are apparently having the report reviewed, but, to date, there has been nothing concrete' said Ms Tubman.

Given that the Macquarie University research found unacceptable levels of lead, and other toxins in dust on playground equipment in Townsville, the lack of response from the departments is deplorable.

'We are aware that Townsville City Council immediately took action in relation to playground cleaning and the Port has been in regular communication with NQCC about its response, so the silence from the departments is all the more disturbing.

In the meantime, the report is the process of review for publication in an international journal.

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