

# Air quality bulletin

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North Queensland

May 2016

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## Acknowledgements

This report has been prepared by the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation. Acknowledgement is made of the following organisations that have supplied air quality monitoring data for this bulletin:

- Sun Metals Corporation
- Port of Townsville Limited

August 2016

## Introduction

Air quality monitoring gathers information on the quality of the air environment. The objectives of the monitoring are to check compliance with ambient air quality guidelines, identify long-term trends in air quality, investigate local air quality concerns, and assess the effectiveness of air quality management strategies.

Air quality monitoring was carried out by the Queensland Government at two sites in Townsville and two sites in Mount Isa during May 2016. In addition, monitoring was also conducted by Port of Townsville Limited and Sun Metals Corporation in Townsville. In May 2014 the former Townsville Port monitoring site operated by Port of Townsville Limited and the Queensland Government's Townsville Coast Guard monitoring site were amalgamated into a single monitoring site located at the Townsville Coast Guard.

Air pollutants monitored included sulfur dioxide, PM<sub>10</sub> (particles less than 10µm in diameter), TSP (total suspended particulate matter - particles less than 50µm approximately in diameter) and dustfall (particles large enough to settle from the air). The TSP and dustfall samples were analysed for metal content.

## Reporting protocol

Data presented in this bulletin are based on clock hours. Hourly or other averages are constrained to start and finish on a clock hour.

## Air quality summary graphs

Figures 1 to 11 summarise available air quality data for sampling days at Townsville sites during May 2016. Monthly average dustfall and deposited lead for Townsville sites are shown in figures 12 and 13. Figures 14 to 19 summarise air quality data for sampling days at Mount Isa sites during May. The maximum recorded level for each day is used to show the day-to-day variation in air quality.

## Air quality summary tables

Tables 5 to 20 present monthly summaries of air quality data for the preceding 12 months. These tables show the month-to-month variation in air quality. A monthly entry is given when at least three-fifths of the maximum possible number of observations during the month are available. When data is not available for the entire month, due to equipment malfunction, this is indicated by the abbreviation 'n.d.' (no data). A dash is inserted when less than three-fifths of data are available. Where no data is recorded, the reason for the low data availability is summarised in Table 21 at the end of this bulletin.

Table 1. Air pollutants monitored at North Queensland sites

	Sulfur dioxide	PM <sub>10</sub>	TSP	Lead	Copper	Zinc	Nickel	Arsenic	Cadmium	Dustfall	Dustfall lead
<b>Townsville</b>											
Coast Guard		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
North Ward (Warburton St)										✓	✓
Stuart (industry)	✓										
<b>Mount Isa</b>											
Menzies	✓										
The Gap	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓		

**Guidelines**

Wherever possible, air quality measurements are compared against Australian air quality standards. In their absence relevant international standards are used for comparison.

Measured concentrations of sulfur dioxide, PM<sub>10</sub>, TSP, lead, nickel, cadmium and arsenic are compared to the air quality objectives contained in the Queensland *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008* (EPP (Air)) to assess whether pollutant levels could harm health and wellbeing. Twelve-month average PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations are also compared against the *National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure* (Air NEPM) annual standard.

Sulfur dioxide, PM<sub>10</sub> and arsenic levels in Mount Isa are also compared against the air quality limits specified in the Mount Isa Mines Limited Environmental Authority EPML00977513.

**Compliance with air quality guidelines - Townsville**

During May, measured pollutant levels did not exceed the relevant air quality guideline at Queensland Government and industry air monitoring sites in Townsville.

Table 2. Number of occasions during May when measured levels exceeded EPP (Air) objectives or Air NEPM standards for sulfur dioxide, PM<sub>10</sub>, TSP, lead, nickel, arsenic and cadmium; Ontario Ministry of Environment air quality criteria for copper and zinc; and DEHP nuisance dust limits for TSP and dustfall at Queensland Government and industry air monitoring sites in Townsville.

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Exceedences
Sulfur dioxide	<i>EPP (Air)</i>	
	Annual	0
	24-hour	0
PM <sub>10</sub>	1-hour	0
	<i>Air NEPM</i>	
	Annual	0
TSP	<i>EPP (Air)</i>	
	Annual	0
	24-hour	0
TSP Lead <small>(24-hour period refers to dust nuisance, not health and wellbeing)</small>	<i>DEHP limit</i>	
	24-hour	0
TSP Copper	<i>EPP (Air)</i>	
	Annual	0
TSP Zinc	<i>Ontario criterion</i>	
	24-hour	0
PM <sub>10</sub> Nickel	<i>EPP (Air)</i>	
	Annual	0
PM <sub>10</sub> Arsenic	<i>EPP (Air)</i>	
	Annual	0
PM <sub>10</sub> Cadmium	<i>EPP (Air)</i>	
	Annual	0
Dustfall <small>(30-day period refers to dust nuisance, not health and wellbeing)</small>	<i>DEHP limit</i>	
	30-day	0

## Compliance with air quality guidelines - Mount Isa

During May, measured pollutant levels, with the exception of sulfur dioxide, did not exceed the relevant air quality guideline at Queensland Government air monitoring sites in Mount Isa.

Sulfur dioxide levels exceeded the EPP (Air) 1-hour objective for two 1-hour periods at The Gap monitoring site on 27 May due to industry emissions.

### Compliance with smelter air quality limits

From January 2016 smelter operations in Mount Isa have been operating under an amended Environmental Authority (EA) which sets alternative air quality limits for some air pollutants as part of the Copper Smelter Extension Project. Table 4 details the EA air quality limit values applying in 2016 where these differ from the EPP (Air) objectives. As compliance with the EA limits is to be determined over the 2016 calendar year, no assessment of compliance is possible at this time. Information on the progressive status against the EA limit values for the Queensland Government air monitoring sites is provided below.

Since 1 January 2016 24-hour sulfur dioxide concentrations have exceeded the EA air quality limit value at the Menzies site on one day. The EA 24-hour limit value has not been exceeded at The Gap monitoring site.

At the Menzies site 1-hour sulfur dioxide concentrations have exceeded 0.200 ppm for 21 hours and 0.400 ppm for three hours since 1 January 2016. At The Gap site 1-hour sulfur dioxide concentrations have exceeded 0.200 ppm for nine hours since 1 January 2016, but have not exceeded 0.400 ppm.

At The Gap site 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations have exceeded 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> on one day since 1 January 2016. The exceedence occurred as a result of a dust storm.

The average arsenic concentration at The Gap site for the 12-month period ending May 2016 was less than the EA air quality limit value.

Table 3. Number of occasions during May when measured levels exceeded EPP (Air) objectives or Air NEPM standards for sulfur dioxide, PM<sub>10</sub>, lead, arsenic and cadmium; and the TEP limits for sulfur dioxide, PM<sub>10</sub>, arsenic and cadmium at Queensland Government air monitoring sites in Mount Isa.

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Exceedences
Sulfur dioxide	<i>EPP (Air)</i>	
	Annual	0
	24-hour	0
PM <sub>10</sub>	<i>EPP (Air)</i>	
	Annual	0
	24-hour	0
TSP Lead	<i>EPP (Air)</i>	
	Annual	0
PM <sub>10</sub> Arsenic	<i>EPP (Air)</i>	
	Annual	0
PM <sub>10</sub> Cadmium	<i>EPP (Air)</i>	
	Annual	0

Table 4. Environmental Authority (EA) air quality limits applying to smelter operations in Mount Isa

Pollutant	Averaging period	Limit value	Assessment criterion <sup>(a)</sup>	Period when limit value applies
Sulfur dioxide	24-hour	230 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (= 0.080 ppm)	<= 1% of total days	1 January to 31 December 2016
	1-hour	570 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (= 0.200 ppm)	<= 2% of total hours	
		1140 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (= 0.400 ppm)	<= 0.4% of total hours	
PM <sub>10</sub>	24-hour	50 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	<= 5 days	1 January to 31 December 2016
Arsenic	Annual	0.016 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Does not exceed	1 January to 31 December 2016

<sup>(a)</sup> Compliance is on an individual monitoring site basis, not across the monitoring network

## Measured ambient concentrations - Townsville

### Sulfur dioxide

Figure 1. Ambient concentrations of sulfur dioxide at the Stuart site. Daily 24-hour average concentrations (ppm), May 2016.

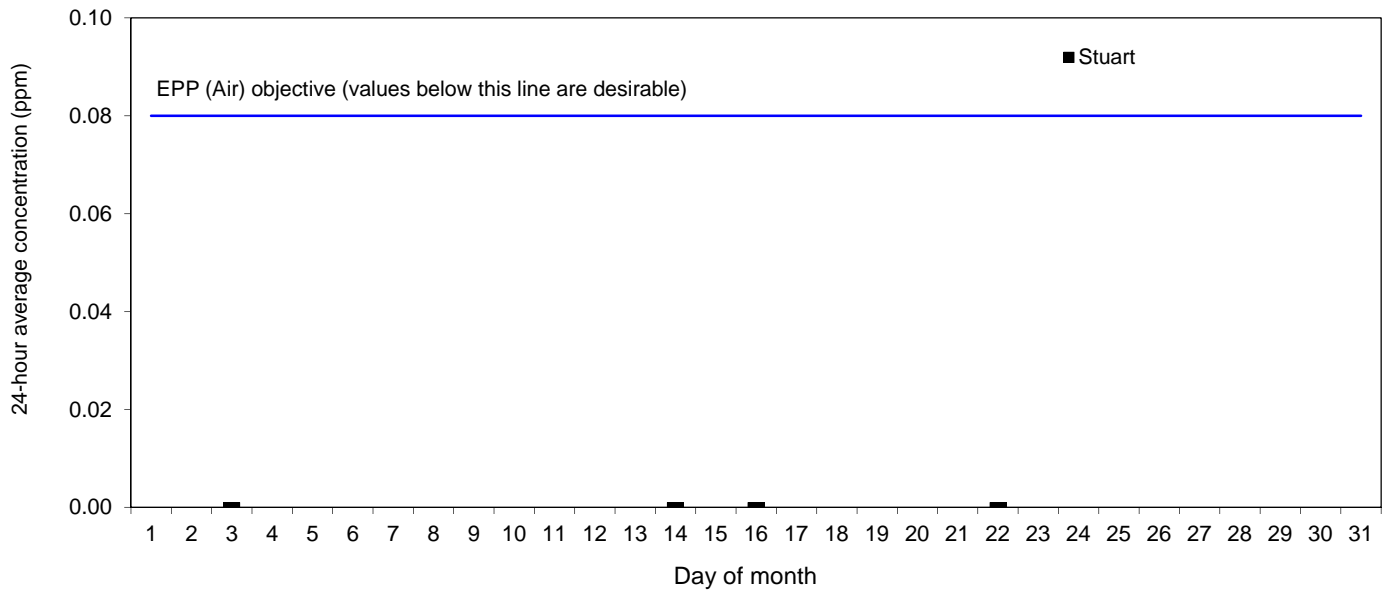


Figure 2. Ambient concentrations of sulfur dioxide at the Stuart site. Daily maximum 1-hour average concentrations (ppm), May 2016.

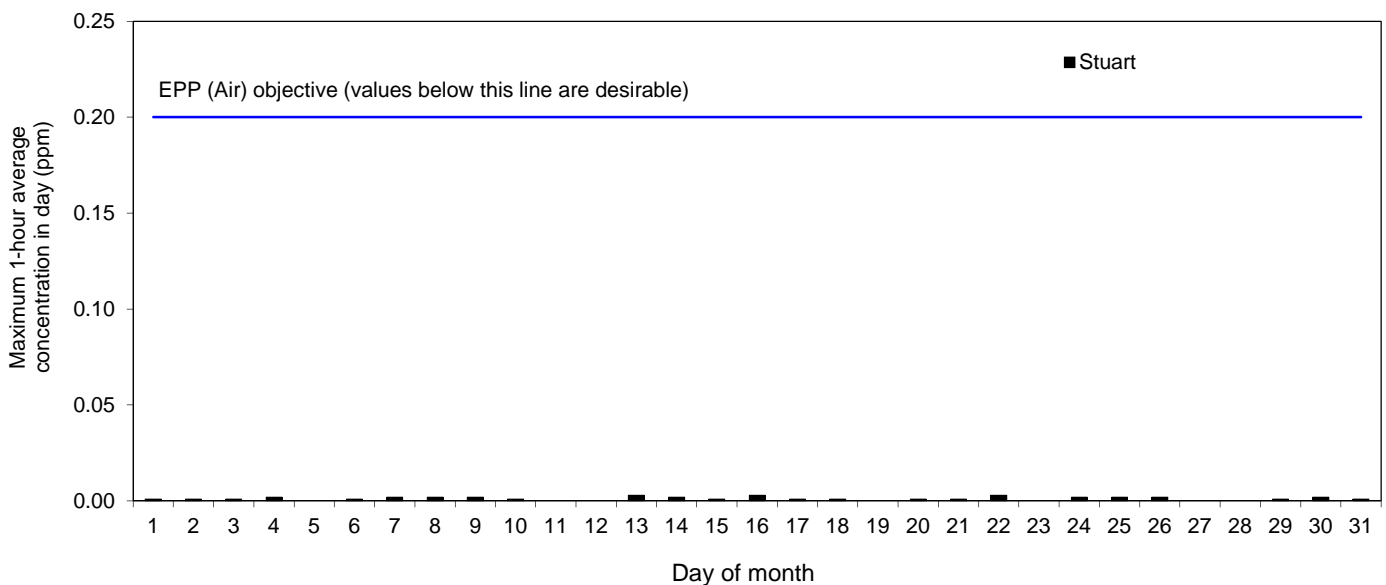


Table 5. Ambient concentrations of sulfur dioxide. Annual average and monthly maximum 24-hour and 1-hour average concentrations (ppm), June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Townsville</b>												
<b>Stuart (industry-operated site)</b>												
Annual average:	0.000											
Maximum 24-hour	n.d.	n.d.	0.001	0.002	0.000	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001
Maximum 1-hour	n.d.	n.d.	0.005	0.004	0.003	0.003	0.004	0.009	0.001	0.006	0.008	0.003
% I.A.	0	0	87	98	98	92	98	98	98	92	98	98
% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available.												
The <i>Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008</i> air quality objectives for sulfur dioxide are an annual average of 0.020 ppm, a 24-hour average of 0.080 ppm (not to be exceeded on more than one day per year) and a 1-hour average of 0.200 ppm (not to be exceeded on more than one day per year).												

**PM<sub>10</sub>**

Figure 3. Ambient concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> at the Coast Guard site. Daily 24-hour average concentrations (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), May 2016.

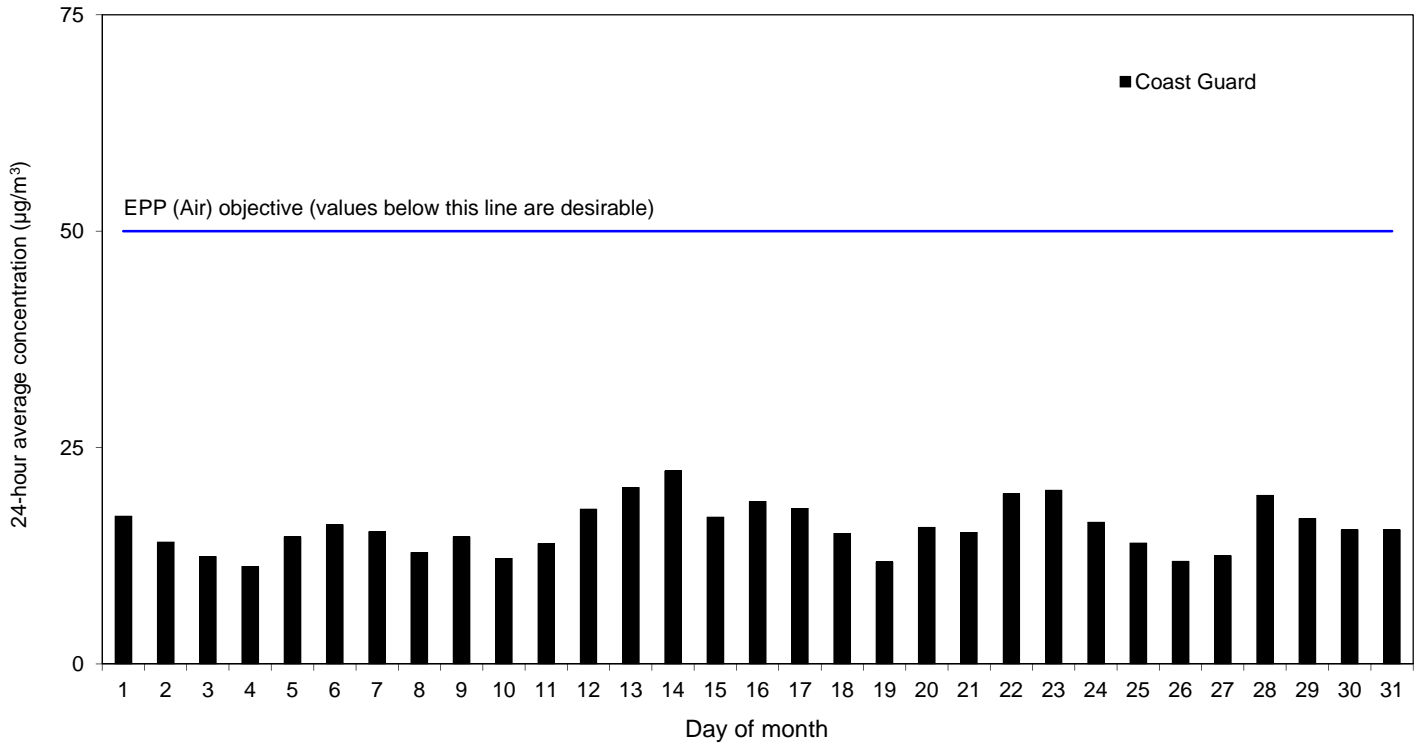


Table 6. Ambient concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub>. Annual average and monthly maximum 24-hour average concentrations (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Townsville</b>												
<b>Coast Guard</b>												
Annual average:	18.2											
Maximum 24-hour	34.9	31.6	30.5	35.7	35.0	26.5	29.4	24.6	20.9	22.4	28.5	22.3
% I.A.	100	99	100	88	98	99	100	88	93	97	99	98
% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available. The <i>Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008</i> air quality objective for PM <sub>10</sub> is a 24-hour average of 50 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (not to be exceeded on more than five days per year). The <i>National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure</i> standards for PM <sub>10</sub> are an annual average of 25 µg/m <sup>3</sup> and a 24-hour average of 50 µg/m <sup>3</sup> .												

**TSP**

Figure 4. Ambient concentrations of TSP (continuous monitoring) at the Coast Guard site. Daily 24-hour average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), May 2016.

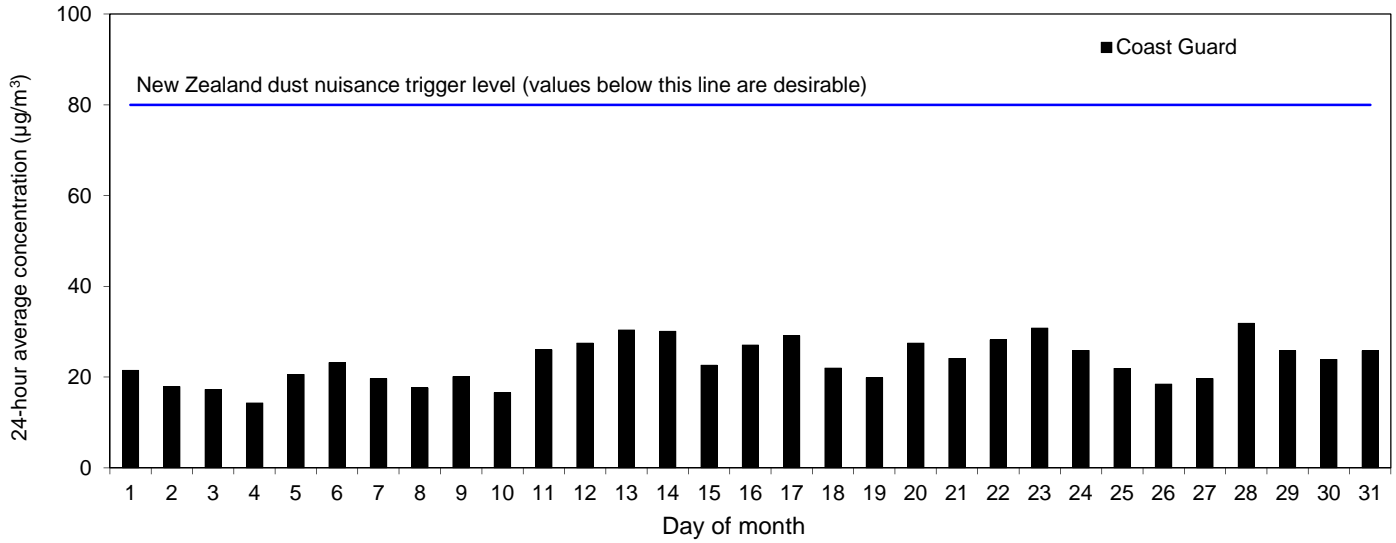


Figure 5. Ambient concentrations of TSP (one day in six monitoring) at the Coast Guard site. 24-hour average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), May 2016.

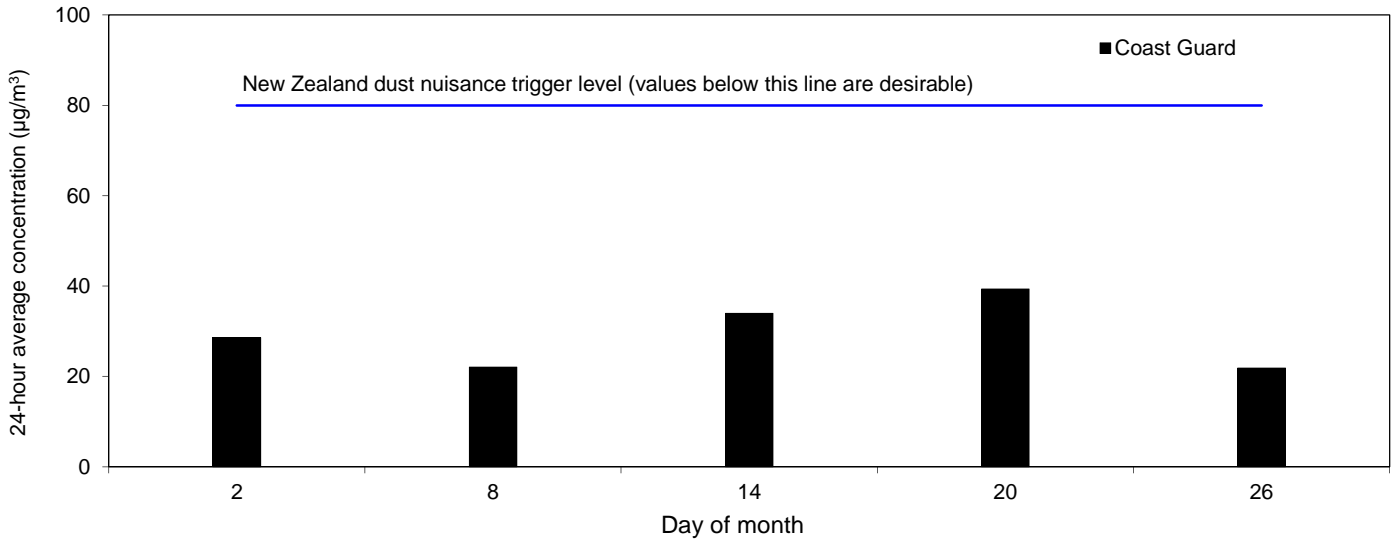


Table 7. Ambient concentrations of TSP. Annual average and monthly maximum 24-hour average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Townsville</b>												
<b>Coast Guard (continuous monitoring)</b>												
Annual average:	26.9											
Maximum 24-hour	41.4	56.6	53.8	55.8	73.9	34.6	45.1	35.4	-	28.2	43.0	31.9
% I.A.	90	93	99	89	94	99	100	87	57	99	100	99
<b>Coast Guard (one day in six monitoring)</b>												
Annual average:	32.5											
Maximum 24-hour	44.9	48.8	64.5	76.7	64.4	33.1	90.7	34.6	27.2	25.6	48.7	39.4
% I.A.	80	100	80	67	100	100	80	80	100	100	100	100

% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available.

The *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008* air quality objective for TSP is an annual average of  $90 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection Air Impacts Guideline recommends that short-term (24-hour) TSP concentrations be compared against the trigger levels provided in the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment's *Good practice guide for assessing and managing the environmental effects of dust emissions to assess dust nuisance impacts*. The New Zealand dust nuisance (sensitive areas) trigger level is a 24-hour average of  $80 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .



**TSP Lead**

Figure 6. Ambient concentrations of TSP lead (one day in six monitoring) at the Coast Guard site. Annual average concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), June 2015 to May 2016.

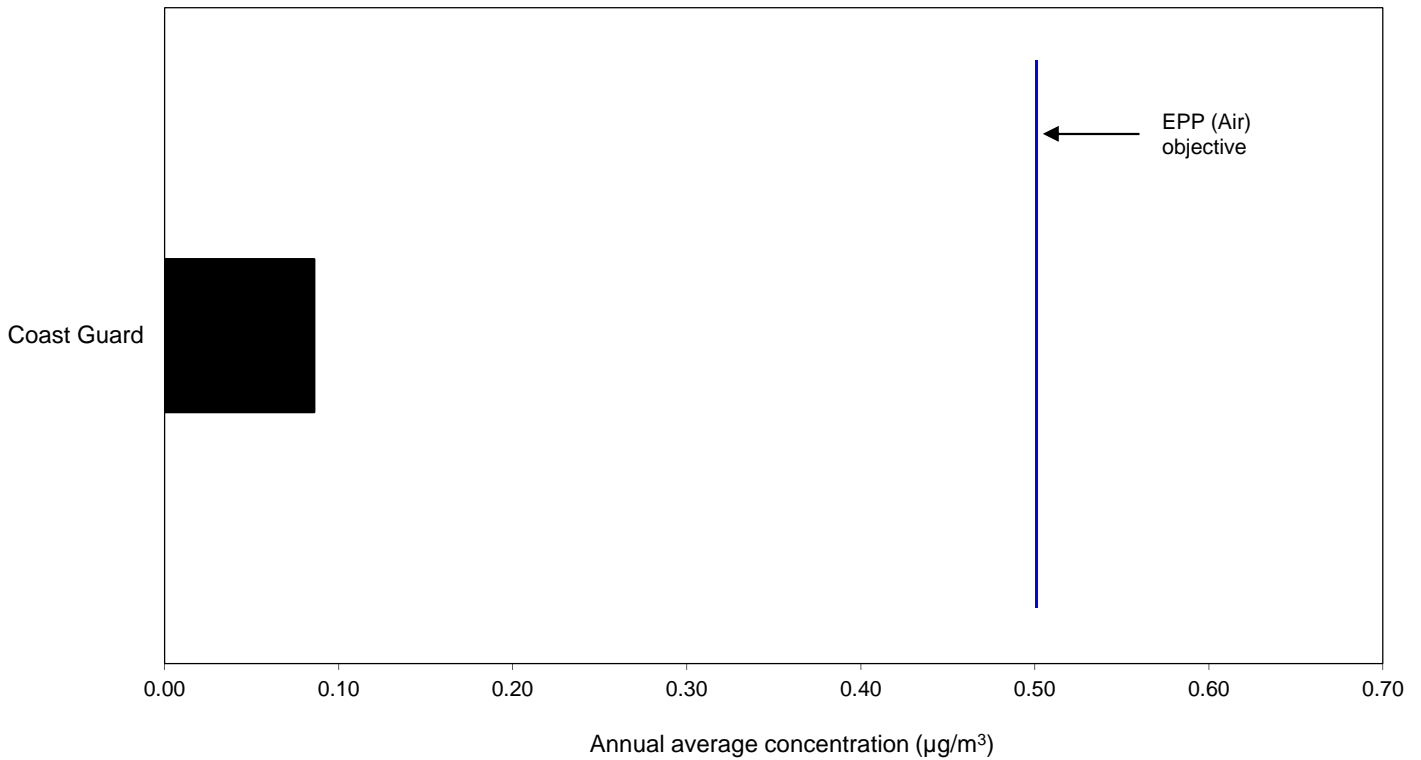


Table 8. Ambient concentrations of TSP lead. Annual average and monthly maximum 24-hour average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for one day in six monitoring, June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Townsville</b>												
<b>Coast Guard</b>												
Annual average:	0.09											
Maximum 24-hour	0.21	0.11	0.10	0.24	0.19	1.29	0.31	0.05	0.10	0.03	0.09	0.04
% I.A.	80	100	80	67	100	100	80	100	100	100	100	100
% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available.												
The <i>Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008</i> air quality objective for lead is an annual average of $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .												
The limit of reporting is the minimum measured lead concentration that can be determined with the sampling equipment and laboratory method used. Lead concentrations below this limit are preceded by a "<" sign in the table. The annual average concentration has been calculated using half the minimum measurable concentration value for samples where no lead was detected.												

### TSP Copper

Figure 7. Ambient concentrations of TSP copper (one day in six monitoring) at the Coast Guard site. Maximum 24-hour average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), May 2016.

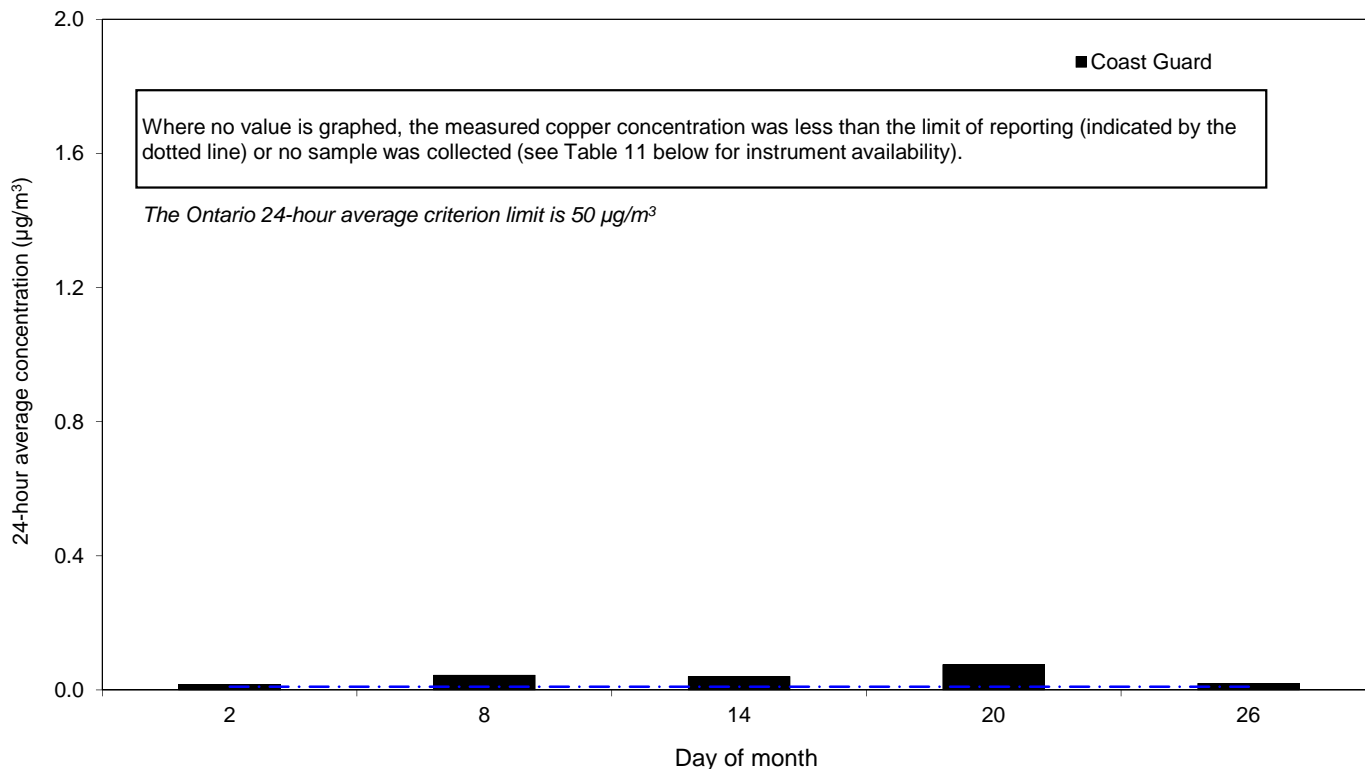


Table 9. Ambient concentrations of TSP copper. Monthly maximum 24-hour average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for one day in six monitoring, June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Townsville</b>												
<b>Coast Guard</b>												
Maximum 24-hour	0.04	0.07	0.18	0.07	0.04	0.02	1.29	0.15	0.03	0.10	0.12	0.08
% I.A.	80	100	80	67	100	100	80	100	100	100	100	100
% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available. The Ontario Ministry of Environment ambient air quality criterion for copper is a 24-hour average of $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The limit of reporting is the minimum measured copper concentration that can be determined with the sampling equipment and laboratory method used. Copper concentrations below this limit are preceded by a "<" sign in the table.												

**TSP Zinc**

Figure 8. Ambient concentrations of TSP zinc (one day in six monitoring) at the Coast Guard site. Maximum 24-hour average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), May 2016.

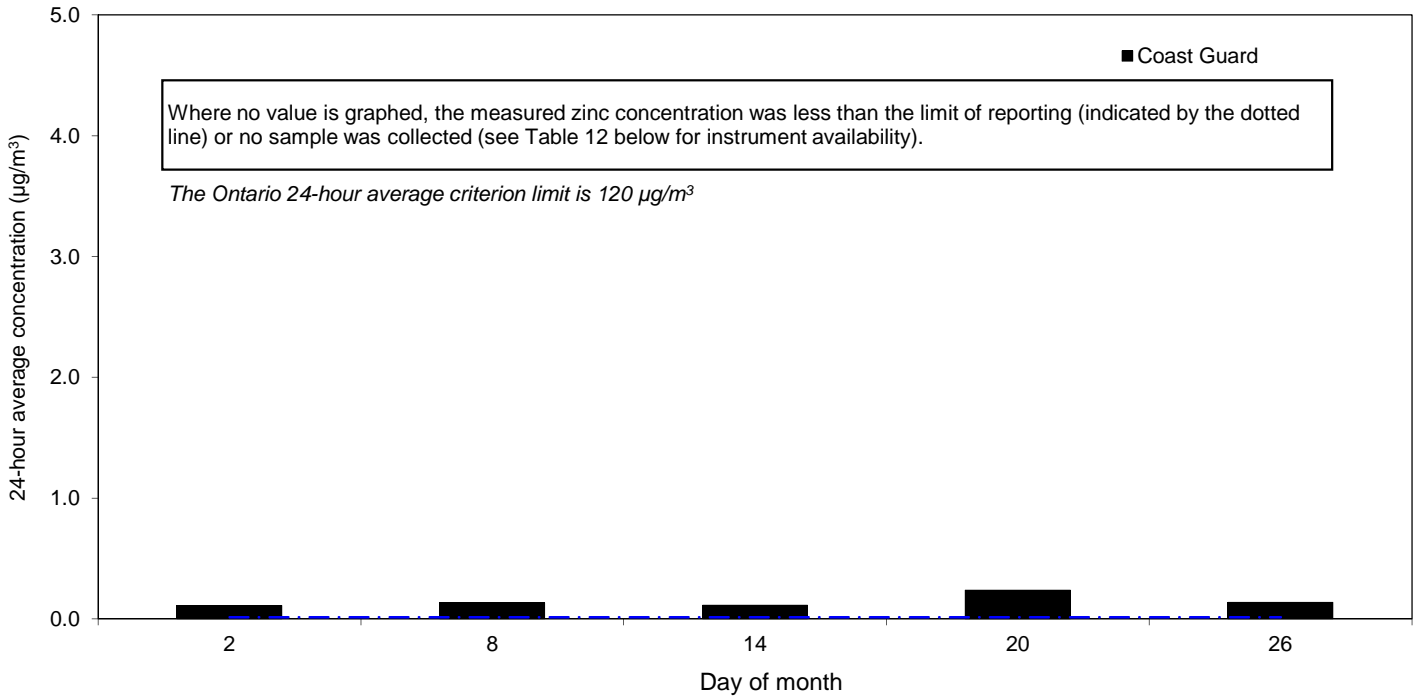


Table 10. Ambient concentrations of TSP zinc. Monthly maximum 24-hour average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for one day in six monitoring, June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Townsville</b>												
<b>Coast Guard</b>												
Maximum 24-hour	1.90	0.57	0.55	3.09	0.86	0.64	2.40	0.70	0.28	0.37	0.64	0.24
% I.A.	80	100	80	67	100	100	80	100	100	100	100	100
% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available. The Ontario Ministry of Environment ambient air quality criterion for zinc is a 24-hour average of $120 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The limit of reporting is the minimum measured zinc concentration that can be determined with the sampling equipment and laboratory method used. Zinc concentrations below this limit are preceded by a "<" sign in the table.												

**TSP Nickel**

Figure 9. Ambient concentrations of TSP nickel (one day in six monitoring) at the Coast Guard site. Annual average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), June 2015 to May 2016.

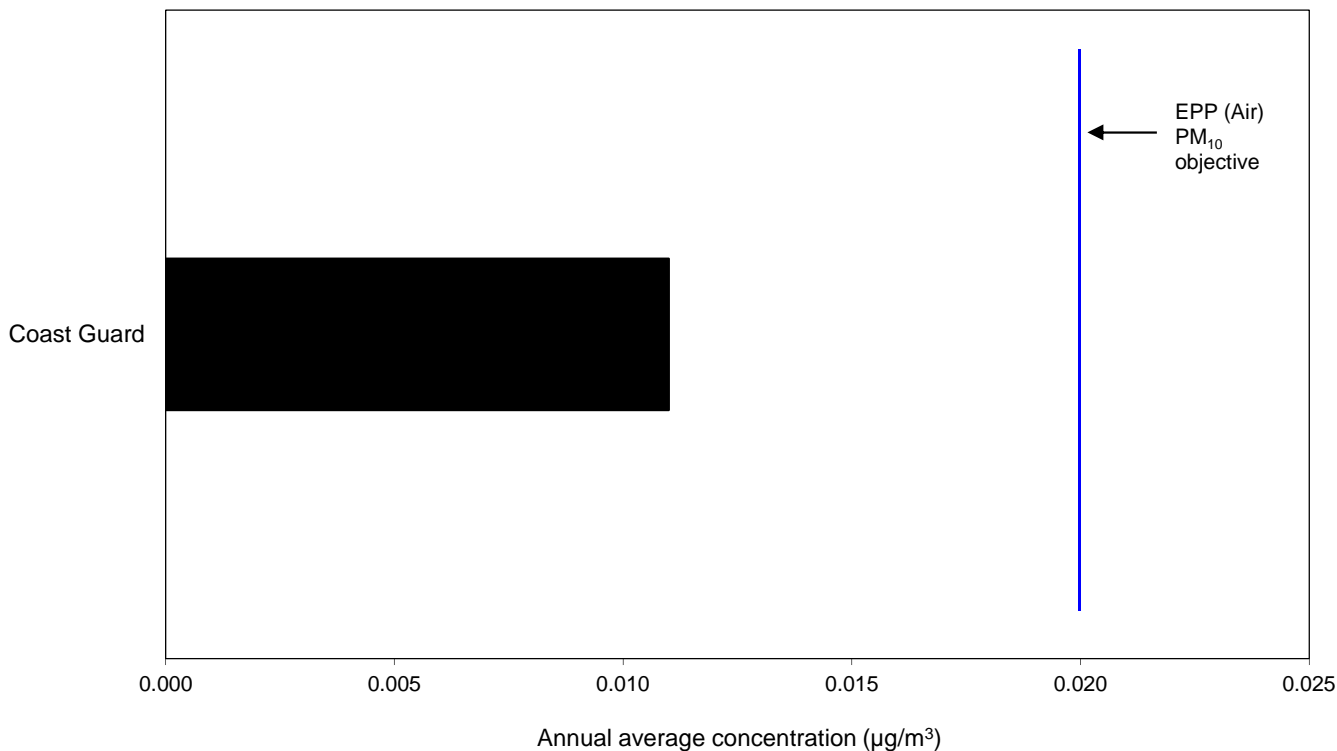


Table 11. Ambient concentrations of TSP nickel. Annual average and monthly maximum 24-hour average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for one day in six monitoring, June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Townsville</b>												
<b>Coast Guard</b>												
Annual average:	0.011											
Maximum 24-hour	0.016	<0.010	0.054	0.033	0.047	0.047	0.056	0.038	0.016	<0.010	0.015	<0.010
% I.A.	80	100	80	67	100	100	80	100	100	100	100	100

% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available.

The *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008* air quality objective for nickel is an annual average of  $0.020 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (measured as the total metal content in  $\text{PM}_{10}$  particles).

Monitoring conducted by the Queensland Government measures the amount of nickel present in the TSP fraction. As  $\text{PM}_{10}$  is a subset of TSP, if the TSP nickel concentration is less than the EPP (Air)  $\text{PM}_{10}$  objective value, it follows that the  $\text{PM}_{10}$  nickel concentration complies with the EPP (Air) objective.

The limit of reporting is the minimum measured nickel concentration that can be determined with the sampling equipment and laboratory method used. Nickel concentrations below this limit are preceded by a "<" sign in the table. Annual average concentrations have been calculated using half the minimum measurable concentration value for samples where no nickel was detected.

**TSP Arsenic**

Figure 10. Ambient concentrations of TSP arsenic (one day in six monitoring) at the Coast Guard site. Annual average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), June 2015 to May 2016.

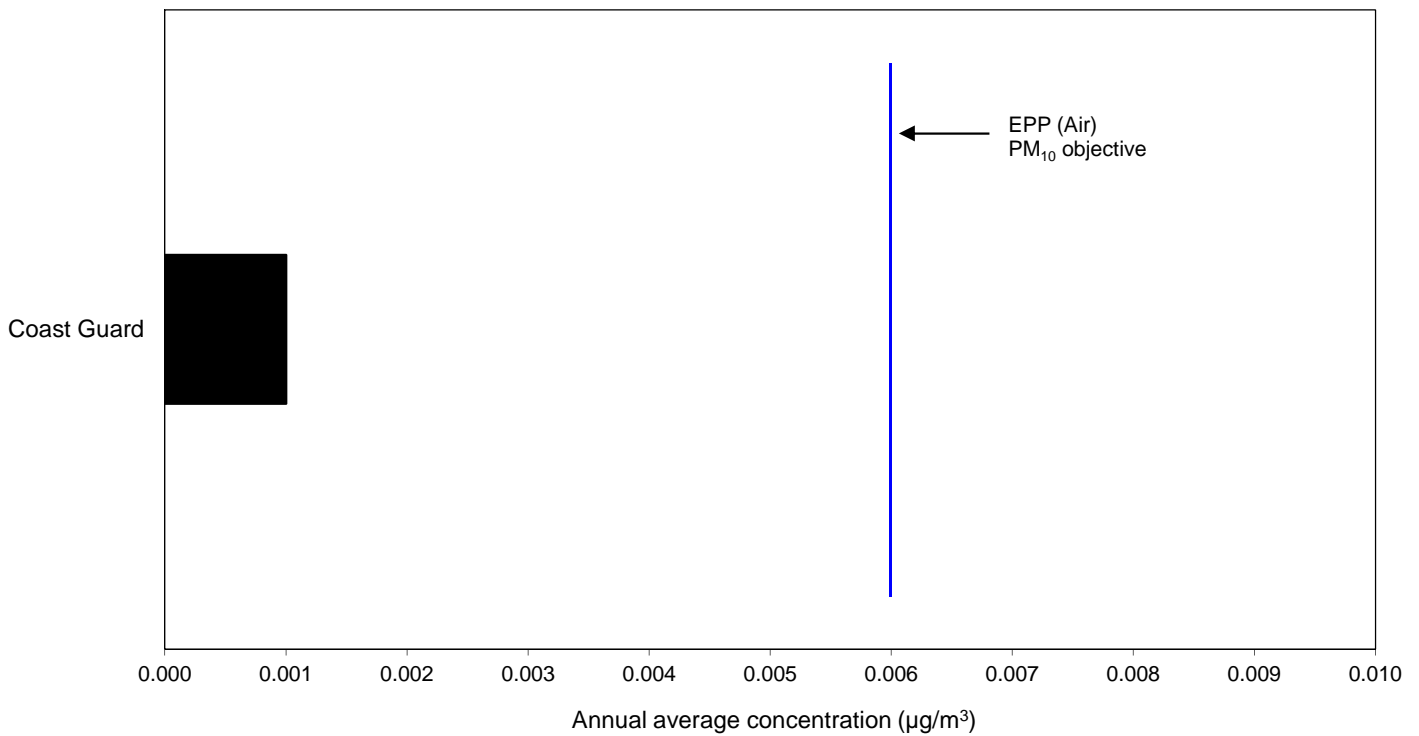


Table 12. Ambient concentrations of TSP arsenic. Annual average and monthly maximum 24-hour average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for one day in six monitoring, June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Townsville</b>												
<b>Coast Guard</b>												
Annual average	0.001											
Maximum 24-hour	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
% I.A.	80	100	80	67	100	100	80	100	100	100	100	100
% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available. The <i>Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008</i> air quality objective for arsenic is an annual average of $0.006 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (measured as the total metal content in $\text{PM}_{10}$ particles). Monitoring conducted by the Queensland Government measures the amount of arsenic present in the TSP fraction. As $\text{PM}_{10}$ is a subset of TSP, if the TSP arsenic concentration is less than the EPP (Air) $\text{PM}_{10}$ objective value, it follows that the $\text{PM}_{10}$ arsenic concentration complies with the EPP (Air) objective. The limit of reporting is the minimum measured arsenic concentration that can be determined with the sampling equipment and laboratory method used. Arsenic concentrations below this limit are preceded by a "<" sign in the table. Annual average concentrations have been calculated using half the minimum measurable concentration value for samples where no arsenic was detected.												

### TSP Cadmium

Figure 11. Ambient concentrations of TSP cadmium (one day in six monitoring) at the Coast Guard site. Annual average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), June 2015 to May 2016.

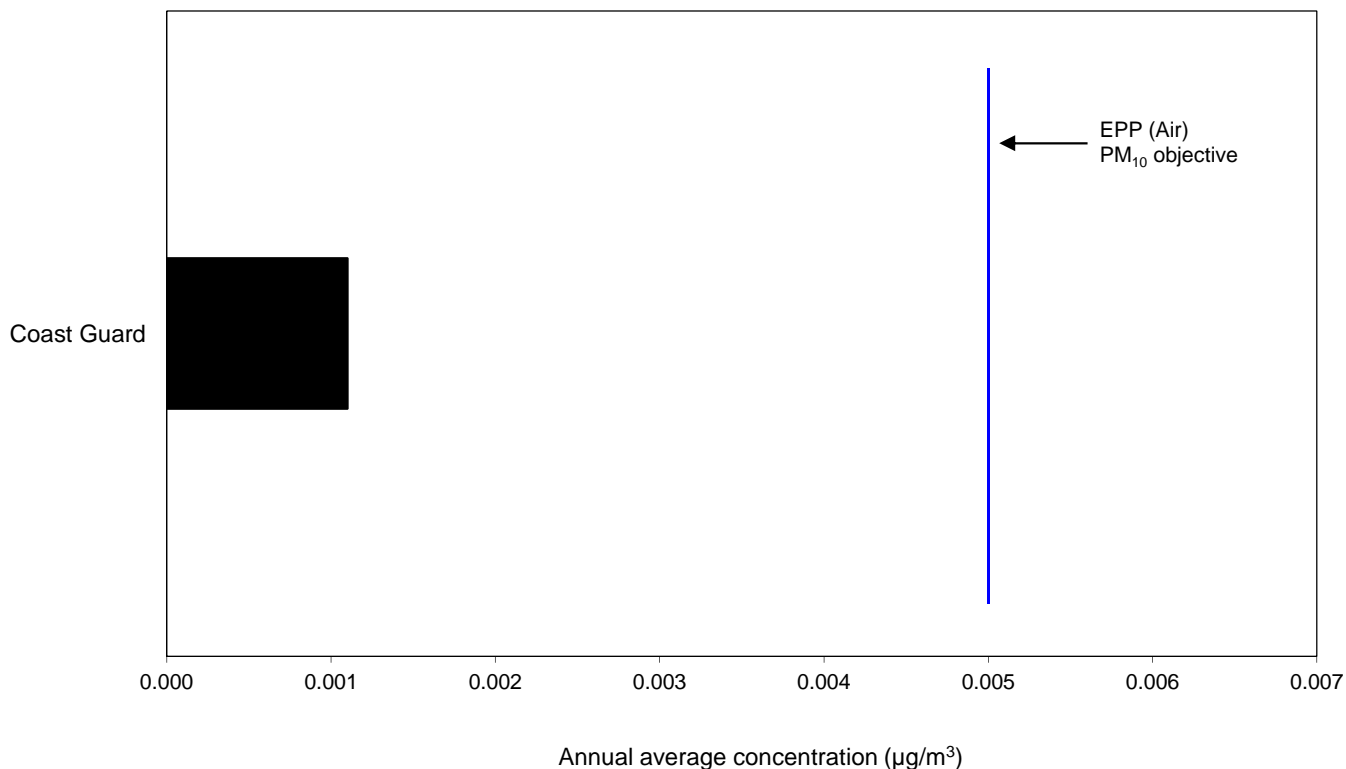


Table 13. Ambient concentrations of TSP cadmium. Annual average and monthly maximum 24-hour average concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for one day in six monitoring, June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Townsville</b>												
<b>Coast Guard</b>												
Annual Average	0.0011											
Maximum 24-hour	0.006	0.002	0.002	0.009	0.003	0.004	0.006	0.002	0.001	0.002	0.002	0.001
% I.A.	80	100	80	67	100	100	80	100	100	100	100	100

% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available.

The *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008* air quality objective for cadmium is an annual average of  $0.005 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (measured as the total metal content in  $\text{PM}_{10}$  particles).

Monitoring conducted by the Queensland Government measures the amount of cadmium present in the TSP fraction. As  $\text{PM}_{10}$  is a subset of TSP, if the TSP cadmium concentration is less than the EPP (Air)  $\text{PM}_{10}$  objective value, it follows that the  $\text{PM}_{10}$  cadmium concentration complies with the EPP (Air) objective.

The limit of reporting is the minimum measured cadmium concentration that can be determined with the sampling equipment and laboratory method used. Cadmium concentrations below this limit are preceded by a "<" sign in the table. Annual average concentrations have been calculated using half the minimum measurable concentration value for samples where no cadmium was detected.

## Dustfall

Figure 12. Dustfall monitoring at the Coast Guard and North Ward (Warburton Street) sites. Daily average dust (insoluble solids fraction) deposition rate ( $\text{mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$ ) for month of May 2016.

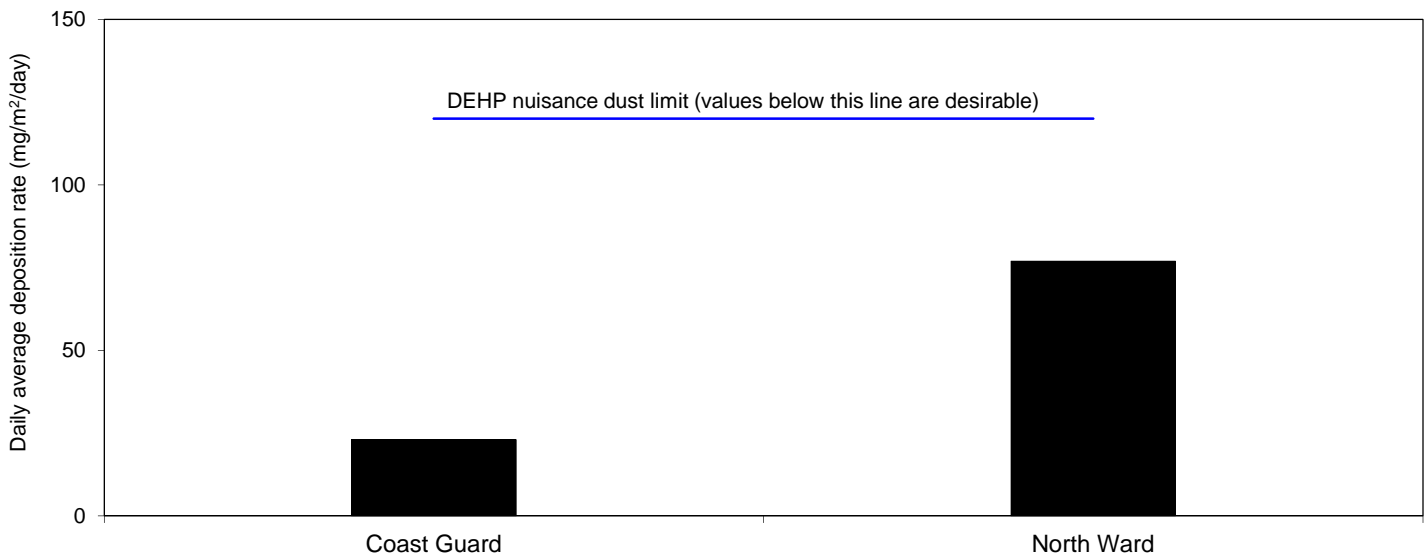


Table 14. Daily average dust (insoluble solids fraction) deposition rate ( $\text{mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$ ), June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Townsville</b>												
<b>Coast Guard</b>												
Daily average	46	30	46	241	80	91	66	41	24	38	44	23
<b>North Ward (Warburton St)</b>												
Daily average	171	158	204	197	n.d.	165	89	155	55	59	172	77
n.d. indicates no data are available.												
There is no national guideline for dust deposition.												
The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection Air Impacts Guideline recommends a dust deposition limit of $120 \text{ mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$ , averaged over one month, be used to assess dust nuisance.												
The limit of reporting is the minimum measured dust deposition rate that can be determined with the sampling equipment and laboratory method used. Dust deposition rates below this limit are preceded by a "<" sign in the table.												

**Dustfall lead**

Figure 13. Dustfall lead monitoring at the Coast Guard and North Ward (Warburton Street) sites. Daily average lead deposition rate ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$ ) for month of May 2016.

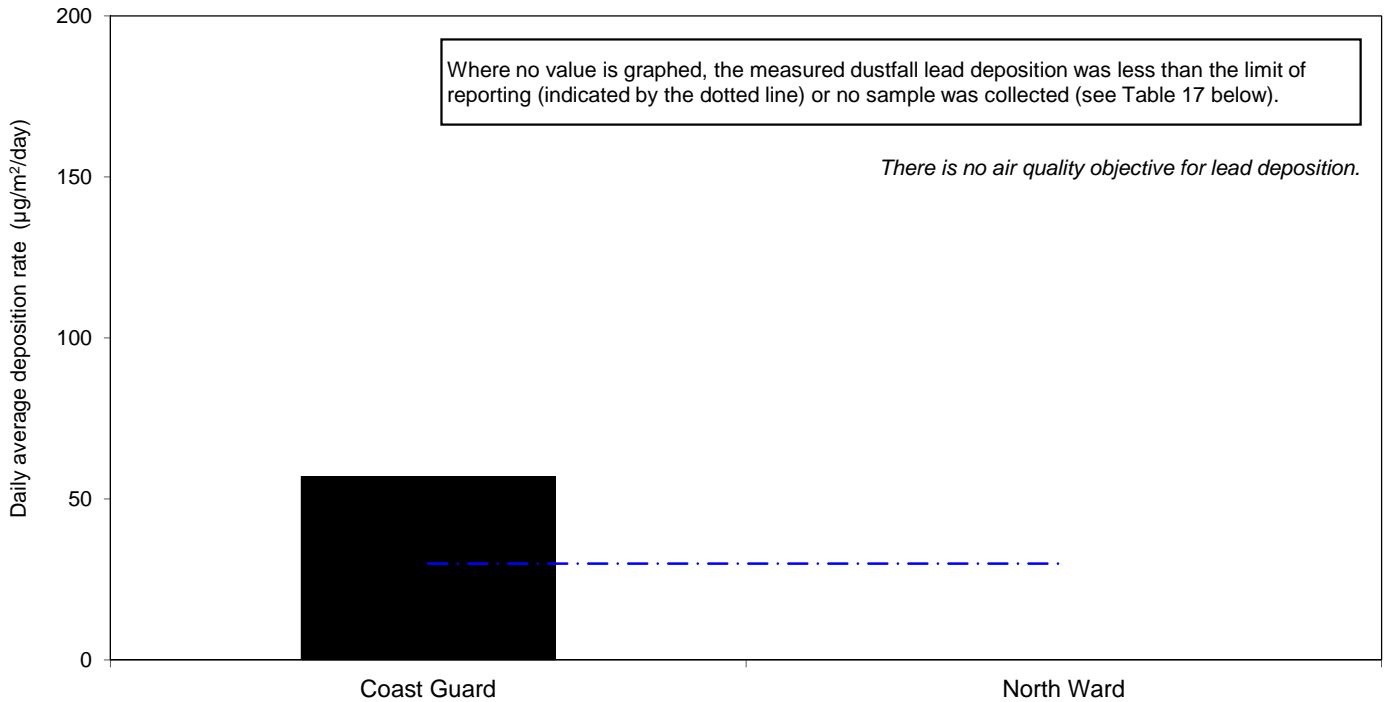


Table 15. Daily average lead deposition rate ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$ ), June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Townsville</b>												
<b>Coast Guard</b>												
Annual average:	215											
Daily average	136	85	154	262	606	400	509	<34	112	75	94	57
<b>North Ward (Warburton St)</b>												
Annual average:	<30											
Daily average	<36	<30	<36	<34	n.d.	<29	<29	<34	<30	<31	<31	<29

n.d. indicates no data are available.

There is no air quality objective for ambient lead deposition. Some data indicate that lead fallout levels between 250 and 750  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{day}$  (averaged over a 12-month period) are associated with a slight increase in blood lead levels (Air Quality Guidelines for Europe, Second Edition, World Health Organization, 2000).

The limit of reporting is the minimum measured lead deposition rate that can be determined with the sampling equipment and laboratory method used. Lead deposition rates below this limit are preceded by a "<" sign in the table.



## Measured ambient concentrations - Mount Isa

### Sulfur dioxide

Figure 14. Ambient concentrations of sulfur dioxide at the Menzies and The Gap sites. Daily 24-hour average concentrations (ppm), May 2016.

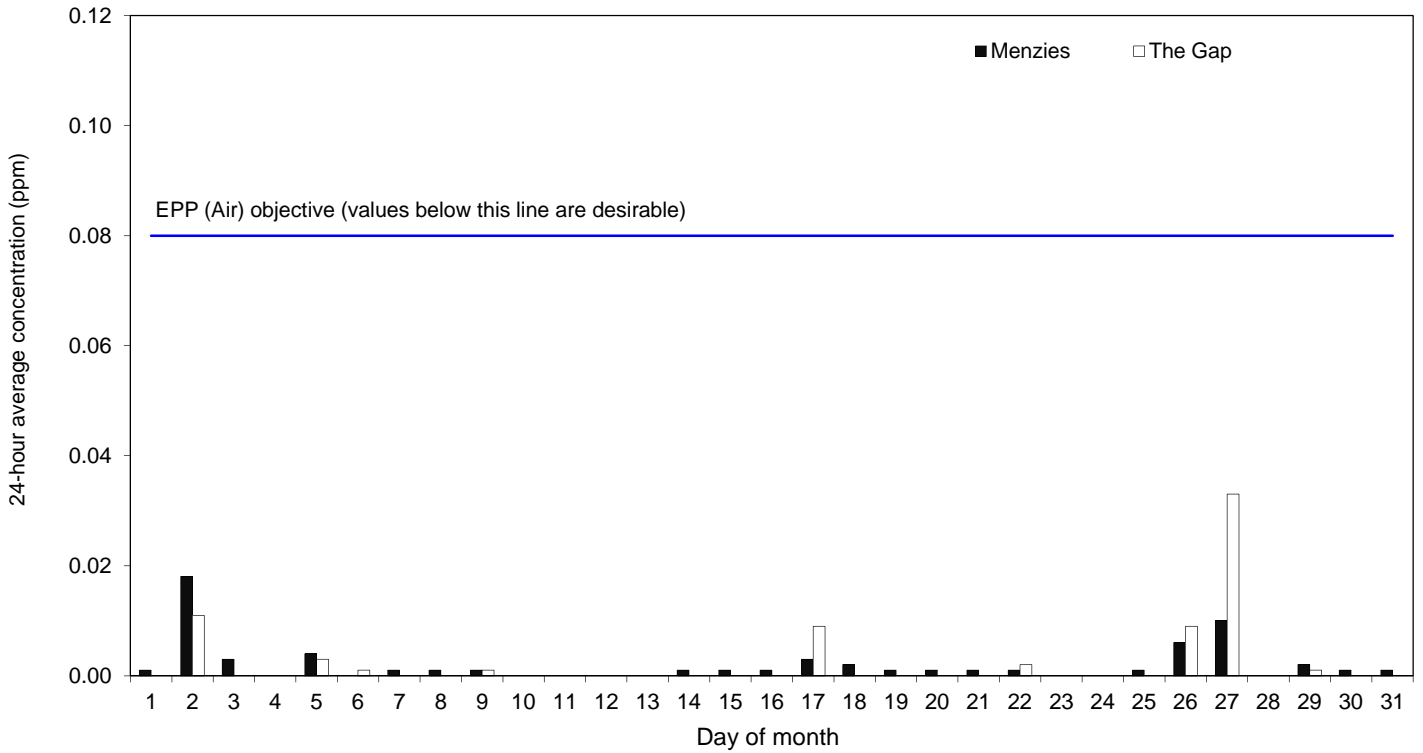


Figure 15. Ambient concentrations of sulfur dioxide at the Menzies and The Gap sites. Daily maximum 1-hour average concentrations (ppm), May 2016.

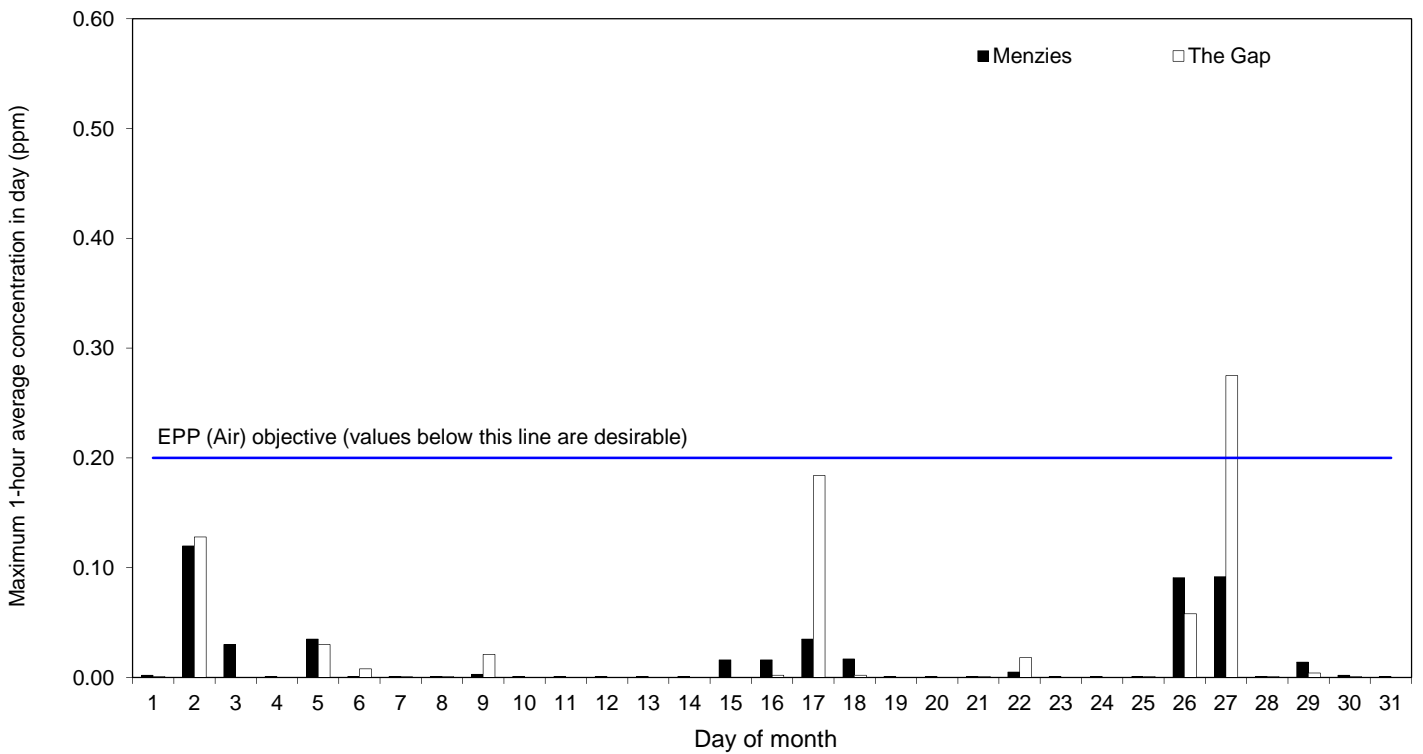


Table 16. Ambient concentrations of sulfur dioxide. Annual average and monthly maximum 24-hour and 1-hour average concentrations (ppm), June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Mount Isa</b>												
<b>Menzies</b>												
Annual average:	0.006											
Maximum 24-hour	0.006	0.047	0.035	0.037	0.040	0.079	0.028	0.055	0.111	0.035	0.020	0.018
Maximum 1-hour	0.050	0.577	0.285	0.216	0.371	0.466	0.260	0.465	0.438	0.224	0.426	0.120
% I.A.	98	98	98	98	97	98	98	98	98	98	98	98
<b>The Gap</b>												
Annual average:	0.004											
Maximum 24-hour	0.004	0.030	0.022	0.021	0.056	0.044	0.038	0.045	0.021	0.011	0.027	0.033
Maximum 1-hour	0.067	0.335	0.212	0.141	0.463	0.494	0.280	0.328	0.213	0.074	0.366	0.275
% I.A.	98	98	98	98	96	98	98	98	98	94	91	98
% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available. The <i>Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008</i> air quality objectives for sulfur dioxide are an annual average of 0.020 ppm, a 24-hour average of 0.080 ppm (not to be exceeded on more than one day per year) and a 1-hour average of 0.200 ppm (not to be exceeded on more than one day per year).												

**PM<sub>10</sub>**

Figure 16. Ambient concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> at The Gap site. Daily 24-hour average concentrations (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), May 2016.

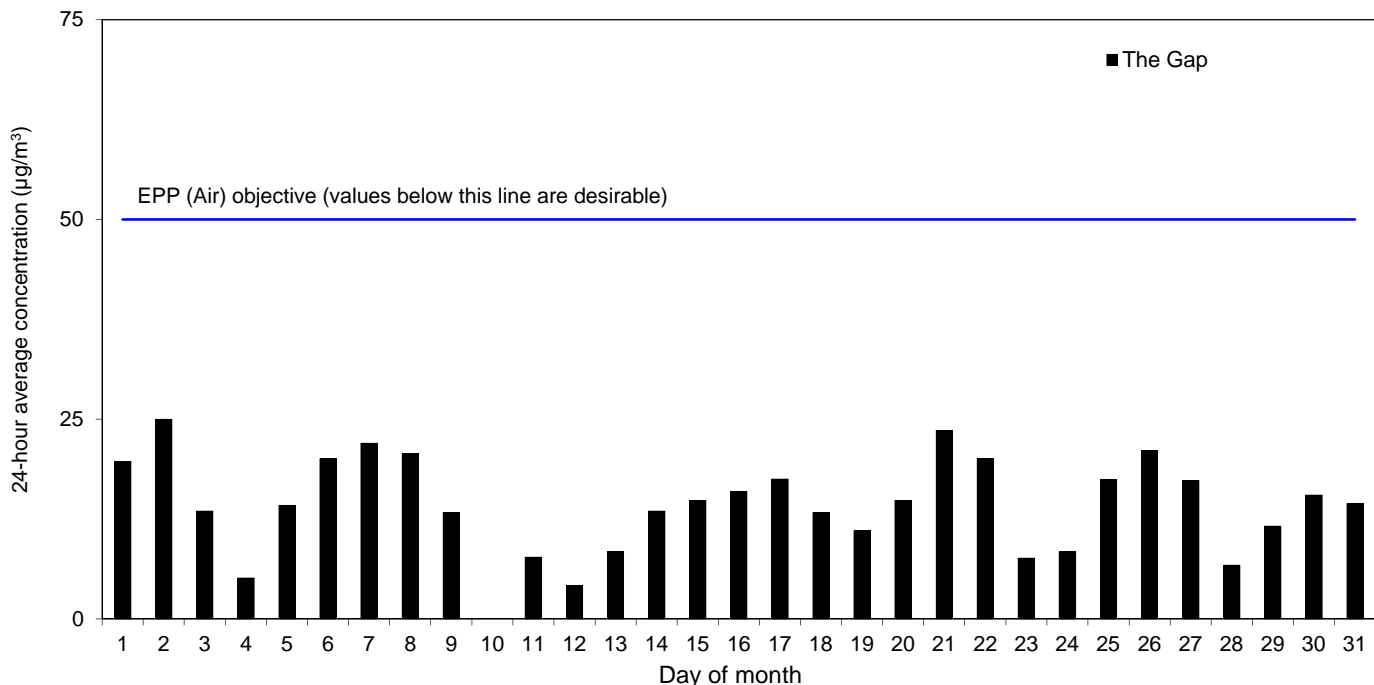


Table 17. Ambient concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub>. Annual average and monthly maximum 24-hour average concentrations (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Mount Isa</b>												
<b>The Gap</b>												
Annual average:	18.6											
Maximum 24-hour	29.0	37.9	50.0	59.7	40.6	54.2	153.3	350.8	50.0	42.5	24.9	25.0
% I.A.	93	100	99	100	99	100	97	99	99	95	89	98
% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available. The <i>Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008</i> air quality objective for PM <sub>10</sub> is a 24-hour average of 50 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (not to be exceeded on more than five days per year). The <i>National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure</i> standards for PM <sub>10</sub> are an annual average of 25 µg/m <sup>3</sup> and a 24-hour average of 50 µg/m <sup>3</sup> .												

**TSP Lead**

Figure 17. Ambient concentrations of TSP lead at The Gap site. Annual average concentration (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), June 2015 to May 2016.

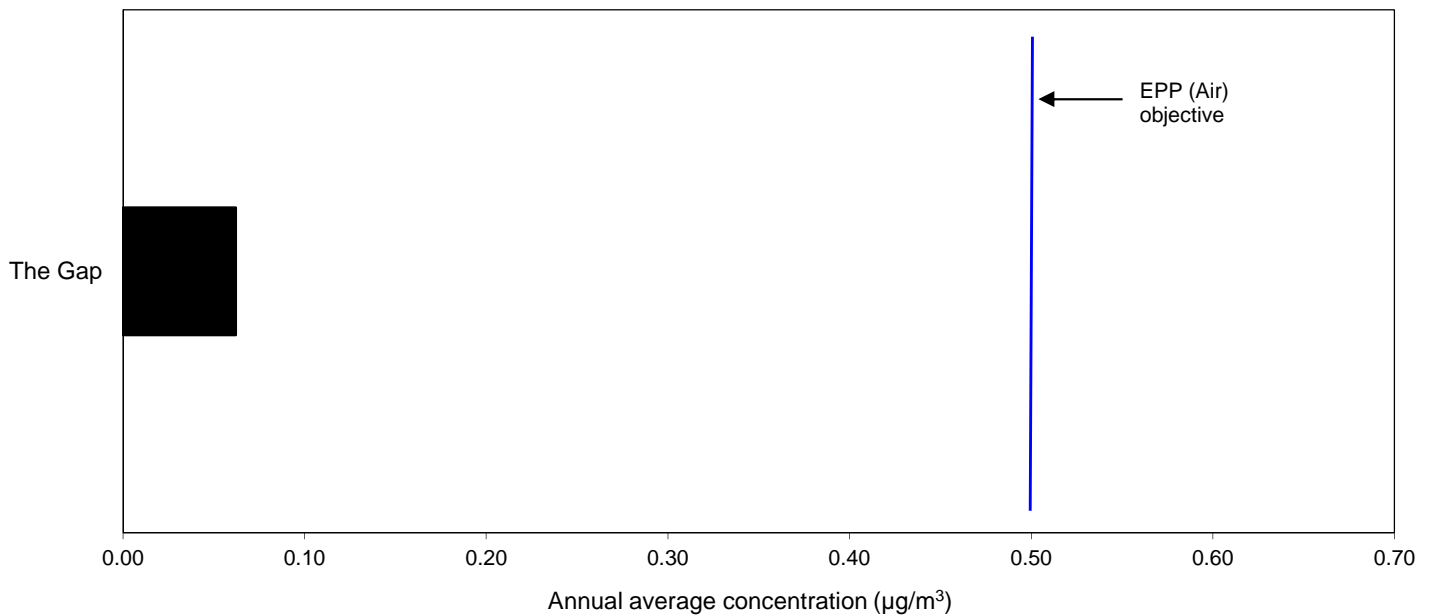


Table 18. Ambient concentrations of TSP lead. Annual average and monthly maximum 24-hour average concentrations (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Mount Isa</b>												
<b>The Gap</b>												
Annual average:	0.06											
Maximum 24-hour	0.03	0.03	0.14	0.10	0.15	1.28	0.95	0.47	0.04	0.03	0.09	0.03
% I.A.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	80	100	100
% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available. The <i>Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008</i> air quality objective for lead is an annual average of 0.5 µg/m <sup>3</sup> . The limit of reporting is the minimum measured lead concentration that can be determined with the sampling equipment and laboratory method used. Lead concentrations below this limit are preceded by a "<" sign in the table. The annual average concentration has been calculated using half the minimum measurable concentration value for samples where no lead was detected.												

**PM<sub>10</sub> Arsenic**

Figure 18. Ambient concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> arsenic at The Gap site. Annual average concentration (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), June 2015 to May 2016.

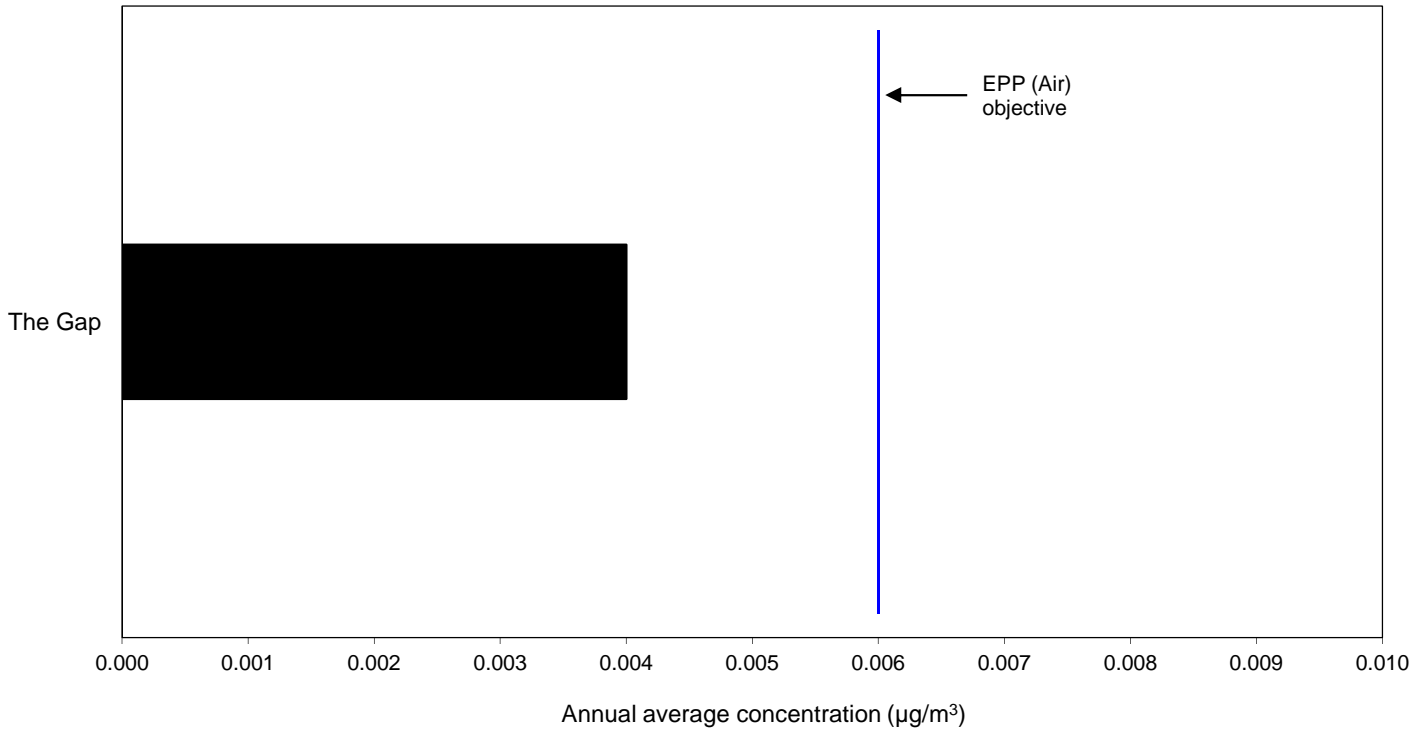


Table 19. Ambient concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> arsenic. Annual average and monthly maximum 24-hour average concentrations (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Mount Isa</b>												
<b>The Gap</b>												
Annual average:	0.004											
Maximum 24-hour	<0.001	<0.001	0.019	0.008	0.028	0.046	0.020	0.027	0.001	0.001	<0.001	0.002
% I.A.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	80	100	100
% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available. The <i>Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008</i> air quality objective for arsenic is an annual average of 0.006 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (measured as the total metal content in PM <sub>10</sub> particles). Monitoring conducted by the Queensland Government measures the amount of arsenic present in the TSP fraction (the TSP fraction is collected so lead levels can be compared against the EPP (Air) objective). Monitoring using co-located TSP and PM <sub>10</sub> high volume samplers has determined that the ratio of PM <sub>10</sub> arsenic to TSP arsenic is 0.88:1 in Mount Isa. The PM <sub>10</sub> arsenic values presented in this table have been generated by applying this factor to the measured TSP arsenic concentrations. The limit of reporting is the minimum measured arsenic concentration that can be determined with the monitoring instrumentation used. Arsenic concentrations below this limit are preceded by a "<" sign in the table. The annual average concentration has been calculated using half the minimum measurable concentration value for samples where no arsenic was detected.												

**PM<sub>10</sub> Cadmium**

Figure 19. Ambient concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> cadmium at The Gap site. Annual average concentration (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), June 2015 to May 2016.

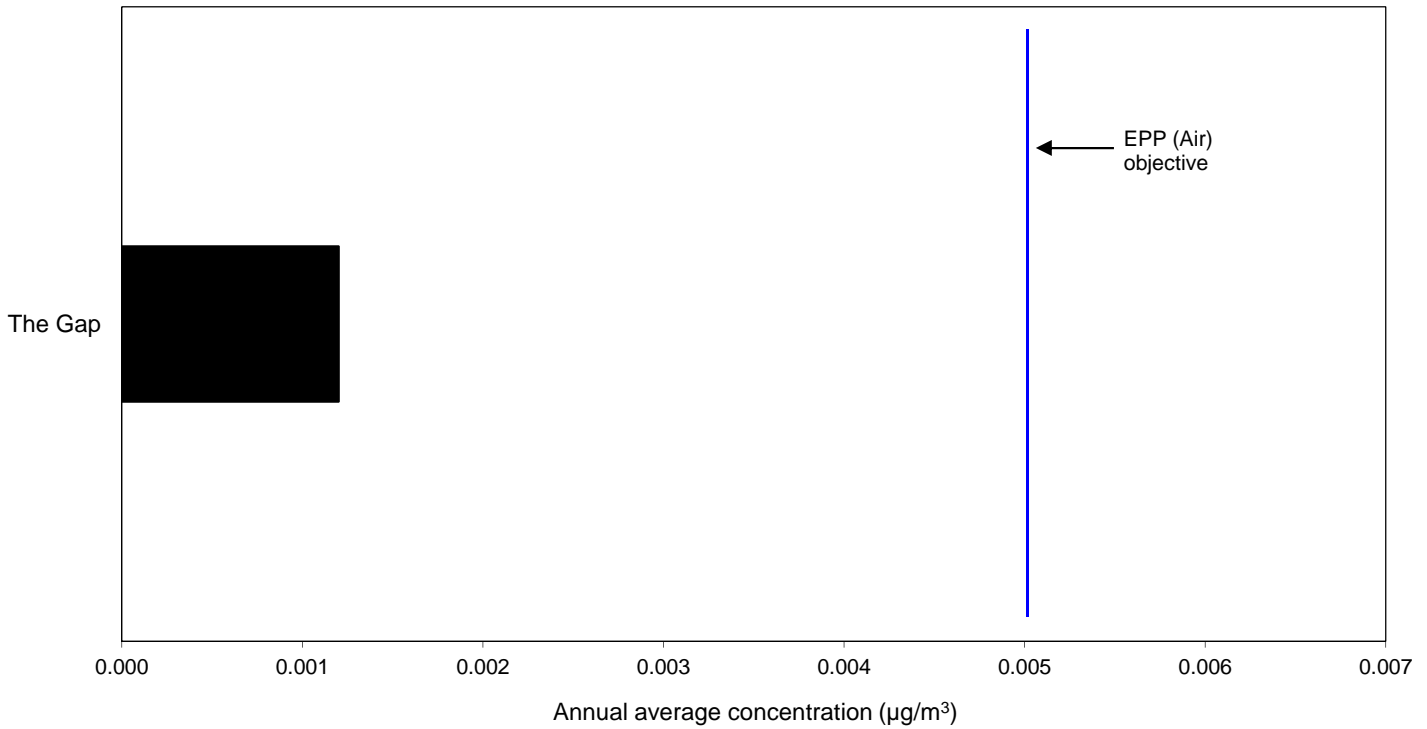


Table 20. Ambient concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> cadmium. Annual average and monthly maximum 24-hour average concentrations (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), June 2015 to May 2016.

Site	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Mount Isa</b>												
<b>The Gap</b>												
Annual average:	0.001											
Maximum 24-hour	0.001	<0.001	0.002	<0.001	0.003	0.010	0.021	0.015	0.001	0.001	0.008	<0.001
% I.A.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	80	100	100
% I.A. indicates instrument availability. - indicates less than three-fifths of the data are available. n.d. indicates no data are available. The <i>Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 2008</i> air quality objective for cadmium is an annual average of 0.005 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (measured as the total metal content in PM <sub>10</sub> particles). Monitoring conducted by the Queensland Government measures the amount of cadmium present in the TSP fraction (the TSP fraction is collected so lead levels can be compared against the EPP(Air) objective). Monitoring using co-located TSP and PM <sub>10</sub> high volume samplers has determined that the ratio of PM <sub>10</sub> cadmium to TSP cadmium is 0.76:1 in Mount Isa. The PM <sub>10</sub> cadmium values presented in this table have been generated by applying this factor to the measured TSP cadmium concentrations. The limit of reporting is the minimum measured cadmium concentration that can be determined with the monitoring instrumentation used. Cadmium concentrations below this limit are preceded by a "<" sign in the table. The annual average concentration has been calculated using half the minimum measurable concentration value for samples where no cadmium was detected.												

**Data Availability**

When required, Table 21 summarises the reasons for data availability below the minimum criteria for reporting at North Queensland monitoring sites.

Table 21. Reasons for low data availability at North Queensland ambient air monitoring sites during May 2016.

Station	Air Pollutant	Cause
Nil		

**Related air quality information**

Current hourly air quality data is available from the internet at [www.ehp.qld.gov.au/air/data/search.php](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/air/data/search.php).

Additional information on air quality monitoring and related issues is also available from the above website.

**Further information**

For further information about the data presented in this bulletin or related publications, contact:

Air Quality Monitoring  
 Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Sciences  
 Science Division  
 Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation  
 Ecosciences Precinct  
 41 Boggo Rd  
 DUTTON PARK QLD 4102  
 Telephone (07) 3170 5477  
 Email: [air.sciences@dsiti.qld.gov.au](mailto:air.sciences@dsiti.qld.gov.au)

Figure 20. North Queensland ambient air quality monitoring station locations.

