

**INQUIRY INTO 2024 REVIEW OF THE DUST DISEASES
SCHEME**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 4 October 2024

Partially
Confidential

I am an employee working on the snowy 2.0 project. An icon of Australia supposedly, we have been excavating both TBM and drill and blast tunnels for Australia's biggest pumped hydro yet. We have been alarmed at the standards surrounding dust and the safe levels we've been asked to work at, constantly ventilation and dust monitoring has been neglected on a scale I haven't seen in my whole career.

The goal posts for what's safe and not safe have been pushed further back and back at what seems like the realisation that the setup we have for our tunnels is not working. The motto 'Safety before production' is used at near every pre start meeting but when it comes to dust and particulates it's a shhhh and keep working kind of scenario. The cut off/ stop work level was at 1.3mg/m³ a year ago and after two in house reviews is now at 5.4mg/m³. How can a more then 300% increase in 'safe' dust levels be achieved when ventilation and masks have not improved. We regularly are told th client will be in today so tasks must stop to let the dust clear ect ect.

How can we be safe at work when big company's are pushing the "if you don't like it here then you can leave" agenda. We've bought it up with higher management, to no avail I must add. What's next for us as employees that spend 12 hours a day- 14 days in a row in consistently high dust readings? A good pay cheque or an older life filled with misery from these diseases. Who do we call if the supervisor, the company and the client turn a blind eye? Hopefully you, the government seeing as it's a federally funded job, help us help you. Help us get home safe.