



## Pinjarra air quality investigations

Pinjarra community members have expressed concerns about dust, potentially from nearby Alcoa operations. In response, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has investigated airborne and deposited dust in the area since 2021 including:

- Dust samples collected from several properties in Pinjarra and the surrounding area in late 2021 were analysed, including locations between the properties and Alcoa.
- High levels of lead and mercury were found in water collected from a rainwater tank on a residential property in late 2021 and mid-2022. No indication of lead, mercury or other heavy metals was found in dust samples collected from the property and locations nearer Alcoa operations to suggest dust was the source of the suspected contamination.
- In December 2023, the Department carried out dust sampling at a Pinjarra property to investigate potential amenity impacts from dust emissions.
- Following a community forum in 2022, the Department held a targeted air quality monitoring program at a property on the north-eastern outskirts of town. A monitoring station was active for three periods between April 2023 and January 2024 to assess dust levels under varying weather conditions.

Advice from the Department of Health and Shire of Murray was considered while interpreting results and finalising the investigations. None of the investigations have indicated dust or other pollutants monitored in the area may affect human health.

### **Summer 2024-25 monitoring campaign**

In response to continued concerns, the Department conducted a monitoring campaign in the town centre to better assess levels of dust and other pollutants across the community. It was timed for likely worst-case conditions during the warmer months, from 1 November 2024 to 30 April 2025. Live air quality data were available for the community to view on the Department's [air quality index website](#).

The Department of Health has reviewed the results and advised the measured concentrations of dust, metals, respirable crystalline silica and gases are not a public health risk.

A community forum provided information on the monitoring and its results, along with an opportunity for direct engagement. Details of the investigation work are available at [Pinjarra Air Quality - Environment WAtch](#).



*Monitoring station near the corner of Peel Street and South Western Highway in 2024-25*