Silver City Project

Managing dust during construction

Fact sheet

Reducing dust during construction.

The construction of the Silver City Energy Storage project will be undertaken within the conditions of approval granted by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and specific measures to manage noise, vibration, dust and traffic have been identified through the planning process.

To build this project about [INSERT QUANTITY] tonnes of earth and hard rock needs to moved using heavy earthmoving equipment. This amount of loose material can cause significant dust in surround areas during windy conditions if not mitigated.

We prepare an Environmental Management Strategy and an Air Quality Management Plan. These documents provide a consistent strategy for the assessment, mitigation and monitoring of dust generated from construction activities.

During construction dust levels are monitored and best practice dust mitigation measures are used including:

* Minimising exposed surfaces through the site planning and programming and limiting clearing of vegetation.
* Compacting the earth and road base using heavy equipment such as rollers. Compacted materials are less likely to become airborne in windy conditions.
* Managing stockpiles and loose materials. Exposed stockpiles are sealed with soil binding products or fabric covers.
* Suppressing dust on active areas such as unsealed road surfaces or haul roads using mulch or water carts to dampen dust.

In periods of hot and dry conditions we sometimes add polymers to the water carts which help bind fine dust particles, making them heavier and less likely to become airborne during windy weather.

Other methods include covering loads when transporting materials, covering haul roads and modifying or rescheduling activities that are likely to generate excessive dust during windy weather.

Using water to manage dust

Water carts are one of the most visible methods use to suppress dust on construction projects. However, they are not the only mitigation measure Planning, progressive stabilisation and early landscaping can play an important role in managing dust during construction.

When required, water used for dust suppression on active areas of construction is sourced from local supply.

QUESTION: Will we use hydromulching as a dust suppression method?

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