

Omar, Linda

From: toni cowell

Sent: Friday, 5 November 2010 1:55 PM

To: Omar, Linda

Linda Omar

Committee Clerk

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Legislative Council

Parliament House

PERTH WA 6000

PUBLIC



Via Email: lomar@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Linda

RE: Inquiry into Cockburn Cement , Munster

I am a resident and wish to make a submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs' inquiry into Cockburn Cement, Munster. I respond to your individual terms of reference below.

- Health, environmental, dust, odour, property and other concerns arising out of the operation of the Cockburn Cement Ltd plant, Munster.

My key issues associated with the facility are the health and environmental impacts caused by odour and dust from the facility. Of these odour is of the most concerning.

- The adequacy of action to address the above concerns.

I consider the action taken by the DEC on this issue inadequate, quite simply as the DEC actions have failed to reduce or cease odour and dust emissions from the facility, particular as the emissions have been problematic for an extended period of time. If the DEC can not reduce or stop emissions impacting on our community then who can?

I consider the action taken by Cockburn Cement inadequate. Firstly, folk at the Cockburn Cement Munster facility refuse to talk to complainants direct, instead only allowing complaints to be lodged through their contracted complaints hotline. The people manning the hotline appear to know very little about the facility, its location and issues. The people certainly don't know where Yangebup is. The complaints hotline is of no benefit for anyone, expect Cockburn Cement who use the hotline as an excuse not the deal with issues raised. The hotline people ensure us that calls will be returned, however I have never had a call returned via this hotline. I consider the hotline a PR exercise.

- Any other relevant matter.

Cockburn Cement appears to deliberately increase emissions and discharges from the facility in the evenings and on weekends when DEC can not respond to substantiate complaints.

I have been a resident at this address since July 2008 and over this time have experienced many days and nights of significant odour and dust from the facility. Emissions from the facility have been particularly problematic in the last 12-18 months.

Impacts on us and our property from the emissions seem worse in summer or when south-westerly

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winds prevail.

When odours are particularly bad, I lodge complaints with both Cockburn Cement and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). Very rarely does anyone from these organisations respond to my complaints. Quite often, because odour is frequent on weekends and nights, there is no way in which DEC can be contacted. The Kwinana office has a message service, however messages are not relayed to staff until the next morning, or if a weekend, on Monday morning. I have been advised by the DEC Pollution Hotline that only emergencies can be handled by that group and that odour from Cockburn Cement is not considered an emergency.

I thank you for the opportunity to make these issues known and encourage you to contact me should you wish to consider these concerns further.

Toni Cowell

Certified Environmental Practitioner

Vice President Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand WA Division

Yangebup Resident