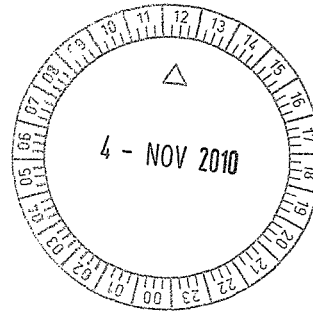


Ms Linda Omar
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council
Parliament house
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Ms Omar

Re: Inquiry into Cockburn Cement Ltd (CCL), Munster

We live in Beeliar, to the north of CCL. We are able to see CCL from our house. We therefore knew that CCL was in the vicinity when we purchased our land. However, we were unaware of the impact it would have on our enjoyment living in what is otherwise a delightful location.

1. *Health, environment, dust, odour, property and other concerns arising out of the operations of CCL.*

We are not adversely affected by the dust, noise or other vibrations. While we can see CCL, we do not consider it presents any sort of "visual pollution". The only effect CCL has on us is odour.

Frequently, we are subjected to quite an acidic, almost sulphuric odour which renders it quite unpleasant to be outdoors. This is most noticeable on days when the wind is blowing from the south and sometimes from the south-west. It is less problematic if the wind is from the north or the west.

We cannot comment on the health issues as it does not seem to adversely affect our health but this may be because we retreat indoors when the odour gets too unpleasant.

2. *The adequacy of action to address the above concerns.*

We are aware the odour problems can be reported to CCL but we are not sure what effect this has. It would be useful to know if CCL is being more proactive and taking steps to anticipate the wind directions to avoid adverse odour problems for nearby residents. At the very least, CCL should be able to react to wind directions and limit operations when the wind is from the south or south-west. Wind conditions in Perth are quite predictable so this should not be difficult for CCL to manage.

It may be that CCL needs to reconfigure its operations so that the operations that generate the most odours are undertaken at night when the prevailing wind is likely to blow the emissions out to sea (ie the wind is from the east).

We moved here knowing that CCL was nearby but we didn't anticipate the odours to be as strong as they sometimes are. We honestly thought there were better environmental controls in place to reduce such pollution. Indeed, we have commented on driving through the Kwinana industrial strip and remembering how bad it was in the 1970s and 1980s, and how it is significantly less malodorous now. If these industries can decrease the malodorous emissions, it should not also be beyond CCL.

However, we recognise that there would be significant repercussions for the price of CCL's products if it was to be forced to relocate and this would adversely affect construction costs. We believe that it should be possible for an industry such as CCL to co-exist with its residential neighbours if it takes a proactive approach to managing emissions subject to the prevailing wind conditions as well as investing in technology to decrease the total emissions it has to make.

3. *The processes of issuing and amending licences.*

We do not have any knowledge about the licensing procedures.

4. *Any other relevant matter.*

No other matter to comment on

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this enquiry.

Yours faithfully



31 October 2010

Rochelle Airey (and on behalf of Craig Cumming)