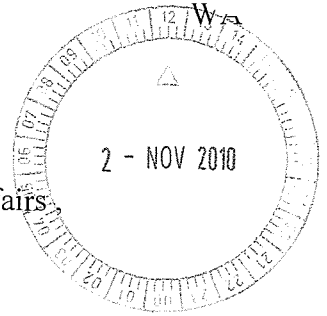


PUBLIC

1st November 2010

Addressed to.
Ms Linda Omar
Committee Clerk, Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs,
Legislative Council, Parliament House, Perth WA 6000



Subject:
Legislative Inquiry into Cockburn Cement Ltd Munster

Terms of Reference:

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

Comment: I live in the next street north of CCL (136 Fanstone Ave) and almost Due North of the exhaust stacks of Kilns 5 and 6. and approximately 750 meters North of the exhaust stacks.

How does it directly affect me. The plant in operation continually puts out pollution and when the wind is from the South then White Particulate Dust falls and lands upon my property including Cars where it is most visible and especially so on the windscreens.

Windscreens have to be washed before driving the car because it can be dangerous due to restricted visibility, using the wipers and washer sprays, damages the wiper blades and scratch's the windscreens. When driving into the Sunlight or oncoming car Headlights, the white dust on the windscreen picks up the light making it difficult to see properly, and is quite concerning. It is a safety hazard, hence the need to wash the windscreen before driving the car. However on a morning before leaving for work when time is at a premium the rest of the car is building up with a concentration of Pollutant Dust because you only take time to clean the Windows, this build up of dust becomes engrained to where it feels like coarse sandpaper and cannot be simply washed off and takes multiple attempts and the use of Chemicals which can be harmful to the paintwork.

My Cars now need to be resprayed due to the damage from the Pollutant Dust, however this will be costly and afterwards the pollutant dust will do its damage again, using car covers is not a solution , they do not work satisfactorily. The only practical solution is to stop the pollution at its source.

Odour's Smells from the Plant (CCL) can on occasion be strong, so strong as to have to close the windows and doors and for my neighbours to have to keep the children inside, it can take your breath away and the wind changes and the smell is going somewhere else.

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

Cockburn Cement Limited (CCL) is run for the profit of its owners and shareholders and stake holders and not for the concern of local inhabitants or employees. What could possibly give me that opinion or concern? In the past telephone calls to the plant would end up with a referral from a "Spokesperson" who would tell you that the plant (CCL) is operating within in the "Terms and Conditions" of its Licence." And effectively telling you that "CCL had a Licence to Pollute" and were operating "Legally" how can this be so ????

CCL has a Licence granted by the WA Government and issued by the Department of Environment and Conservation. The existing Licence is under review, however the DEC is not enforcing the Licence and the proposed amended licence do not adequately set targets Nor Penalties for failure to satisfactorily operate within the terms and conditions of the licence. It would seem that the DEC and CCL are either not working together or ignoring the whole affair and you would have to wonder if there was some sort of corruption taking place that the CCC should be investigating, it certainly seems like the DEC is doing nothing but request comments for amendments to the existing Licence.

I have visited the DEC offices in Kwinana and discussed with DEC Staff regarding the problems with CCL. I was not impressed by the lack of accountability nor by the DEC 's intentions to amend or enforce changes to the CCL operational Licence. I left the meeting somewhat disappointed as if the DEC and the Government were not capable of reigning in the operations of CCL with regard to Pollution. I could not believe it.

The adequacy of action to address the above concerns, well we have to look to the Local Action Group and the local MP's in voicing and raising concerns of the public, for we cannot look to the DEC or to the incumbent Government to do so.

3. The process of issuing and amending licenses

First and foremost we must ask the Question, "is the DEC suitably qualified to do this" in my belief it is "NOT" whatever you cannot enforce is a waste of time, and we must ask as to who it is that sets the parameters of operation for CCL at the DEC we must ask as to who has the experience and knowledge of best world practices and the use of "Targets" and "Penalties" for failure to operate within those targets and at preventing Pollution and environmental damage, does big business make its own rules like it would appear that CCL does.

4. Any other relevant matter.

I must confirm that I only wish to live in harmony with CCL I want them (CCL) to operate and function as responsible manufacturers but without the pollution that spews from the plant. I like where I live and want to stay where I live and I want a shiny clean car that I can be proud of with windscreens that I can see through without having to wash them clean daily.

I ask that the committee reviewing Cockburn Cement Ltd. Munster take deliberate and positive action with regard to the Operational Licence and its targets and the enforcement by the DEC and penalties when the plant is outside of the license parameters, we must take away the Licence to Pollute that currently exists, we need a government that show's that it is responsible in its actions and leadership, with production by CCL to be in harmony with its neighbours and to be within the Law of the State of Government of Western Australia setting new world standards and as a visionary for the world to aspire to.

Yours sincerely,

John Saunders.

