

PUBLIC

Mr and Mrs S Rudge

1st November 2010

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: We have lived within 2 kms of CCL for nearly 12 years.

With the last 2 years being unbearable for us, with huge concerns about our childrens health.

How does it directly affect me. The plant continually pollutes us with their odours and dust covering our homes, backyards and cars, making it difficult some days for our children to play outdoors or sleep with our windows open. I have attached a sample of dust which I have swept up from one of our cars, with a dust pan and broom from just one bad night. This is what is covering us regularly and god knows what we are breathing in??

We have to wash the windscreens of our cars before driving them and the paint work on our cars is being ruined. When the dust gets wet it sets like concrete, as can be seen on our home's windows and outdoor pavers. Please how can they get away with this? No other big company like Alcoa can! The residential area is growing bigger and so has Cockburn Cement's productivity, but they do not care about the community or the environment. I am so sick of this, but why should we move? We have a great local school, the once beautiful beaches, (that Cockburn Cement have ruined by dredging the shell sand), shops and all our friends. Please stop them, before it's too late!! They do not have a license to pollute or do they??

Odour's from Cockburn Cement are herendous. They can on occasion be so strong, that we have to close all the windows and doors and keep the children indoors. They can take your breath away, and cause us headaches, nausea and light headedness.

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

Cockburn Cement Limited (CCL) is run for the profit of themselves and shareholders, with no concern for local inhabitants, employees or residents. Their net profit for 2009 was "\$123.1 million.

I feel very sorry for their workers, whom I hear if they complain get escorted of the site?? CCL is "operating within their Legal Terms and Conditions of their License"! Surely not?. The DEC needs to pull their head in and start doing their job correctly! The DEC is not enforcing the Licence and the proposed amended licence and is not adequately setting targets or 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 made numerous complaints to the DEC 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. The Government is not capable of reigning in the operations of CCL with regard to Pollution. It is 2010 not 1910, how have they gotten away with this for so long?.

3. The process of issuing and amending licenses

The DEC in my opinion is not suitably qualified to do this.

4. Any other relevant matter.

All we want is for CCL to clean up their act and spend some of that \$123.1 million on the environment, so we can all live in harmony, not to close them down.

I ask that the committee reviewing Cockburn Cement please take positive action in regard to the Operational Licence of CCL and think of all the young families living in the Cockburn community .

Regards
Natasha and Stephen Rudge