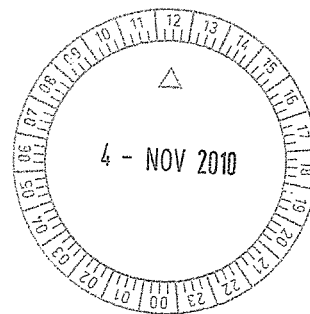


PUBLIC



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

Dear Ms Omar

**Re Legislative Inquiry into Cockburn Cement Ltd – Munster**

It is about 2.50 pm on Sunday afternoon, 31 October 2010. I had planned to write this letter to send off today but had not yet got around to it. I was just rudely reminded as a sudden stench caused by Cockburn Cement had us moving rapidly throughout our house to close all the windows and doors to try and keep the smell at a minimum. It is a shame as it is a lovely, sunny day and there is a gentle sea breeze blowing. I will not be venturing outside for half an hour.

We designed our house to take advantage of the sea breeze in order to reduce electricity consumption and make the house more pleasant in the hot summer months that we have in Perth. Alas, we did not realise that Cockburn Cement would regularly impinge on this plan. We have verandas to the North and East of our house. We are unable to use them to their full potential because of the intermittent odour when the wind swings round to the south west. The prevailing wind direction in Perth during Summer afternoons is south/south-westerly so the time when we wish to open up the house for the sea breeze coincides with the time when we are most likely to be affected by Cockburn Cement emissions.

The odour is so foul that I am embarrassed when we have friends round to visit. It is not conducive to socialising on the veranda, which had been our intent.

It was only when we were about three quarters of the way through building our house some three years ago that I first smelt Cockburn Cement's emissions. I am not sure if it was because they were not creating offensive smells so often as now seems to be the case or that we had avoided the smell due to the time of day we visited. The smell was so bad that I felt nauseous (as has been the case several times since that first instance). If I had realised the impact, I would never have built in this area.

Our house is prone to a light dust covering all our furnishings, clearly visible if I do not dust on a weekly basis. I hate to think what impregnates our clothing when it is drying on the line and the wind is blowing in our direction.

I am unsure whether Cockburn Cement emissions have impacted on my health, apart from the nausea. However I have had ongoing health problems this year, with increased asthma and coughing. This may be coincidental and a direct link would be very difficult to confirm. However, when I consider the odour and the dust that is clearly being carried from Cockburn cement, I have little doubt that it can only have an adverse affect on the health of those in the area, particularly those with chest and eye problems.

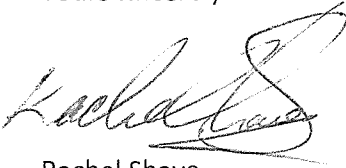
The sight of whitish grey plumes from the chimneys is of great concern and makes me wonder what chemicals are being released into the atmosphere. I had been under the impression that factories

and the like are supposed to conform with emissions standards. This does not appear to be the case with Cockburn Cement.

My impression is that the company's addressing of emissions is lacklustre at best. The sheer number of times that we have endured the stench and the number of times I have seen emissions emanating from the factory indicate a poor response to the plant's environmental impact. It greatly concerns me that the planned installation of a bag-house filter on Kiln 6 is two years down the track. I would hope that more immediate action be undertaken to reduce its impinging on the environment and the people living in this area.

I sincerely hope that this Legislative Inquiry does bring about timely change in this situation. Not only do the Cockburn Cement operations impact me personally, but also the communities in this area and the environment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Shave', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rachel Shave

cc. Francis Logan, Member of the Legislative Assembly - Cockburn