



PUBLIC



Hon Dr Sally Talbot MLC
Parliament of Western Australia
Member for South West Region
Shadow Minister for Environment;
Planning; Climate Change; Lands; Youth

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Policy
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000

Dear Mr Ellis

Petition No 71 – Cockburn Cement Ltd, Munster – Submission to Committee

Thank you for inviting me to provide a submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs in relation to this petition.

This petition has reflects the concern of a growing number of residents from suburbs surrounding the cement and lime production facility which is operated by Cockburn Cement Ltd on Russell Road in Munster.

As recently as 28 April of this year residents were reporting episodes of dust fallouts originating from the direction of the facility and complaining of runny noses and teary eyes. One local person is so concerned that she now makes her children wear a facemask when going to school.

The health of the residents from the surrounding suburbs is not the only concern. There have been reports also of damage to property, with lime dust eating into the paintwork of cars and even affecting the structure of houses.

I have been advised that there is a solution to this problem. As part of the Cockburn Cement Ltd licence to operate, the Minister for Environment could made it a requirement that the company install a bag house filter system. This system would be attached to the kiln chimneys and would remove the lime dust before it enters the atmosphere.

If your Committee was able to investigate further this very serious situation and its potential remedy, I know residents in the local community and the surrounding suburbs would be very grateful. Furthermore, it may be that a Committee inquiry could play an important part in averting further damage to the health of community members, their property and their environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue. I would be pleased to provide further information to the Committee if required.

Yours sincerely



SALLY TALBOT
23 June 2010