



Government of Western Australia
Department of Commerce

WorkSafe

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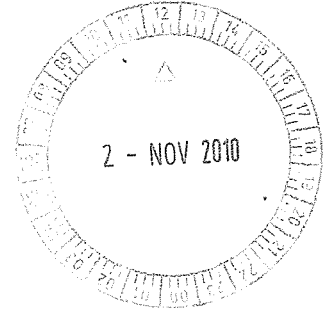
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29 October 2010

Our Ref: A1952404

Enquiries: Ian Munne 08 9327 8693

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000



Dear Minister Ellis

INQUIRY INTO COCKBURN CEMENT LTD, MUNSTER

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs regarding the operations of Cockburn Cement Ltd in Munster.

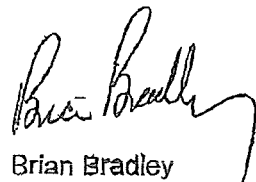
Duties under the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* apply to workplaces. WorkSafe does not investigate chemical spills that impact solely on the environment. However, where the evidence indicates there may be a hazard to workers or other persons at the workplace, WorkSafe may conduct an investigation.

An examination of WorkSafe computer records indicates that nine enquiries have been made in relation to dust at Cockburn Cement in the past decade. In each case, WorkSafe inspectors attended the site, investigated the complaint and took appropriate action to address the issue. Eight of these enquiries related to dust within the boundaries of the site itself while the most recent complaint, made in May 2009 by a concerned resident, alleged that dust had been emitted from the site.

In response to the most recent complaint, WorkSafe inspected the site and issued two improvement notices in relation to the failure of filters in the dust extraction mechanism for loading operations and for inadequate dust control systems in the laboratory. Cockburn Cement has complied with the requirements of the improvement notices.

If you have any questions regarding this submission please do not hesitate to contact Mr Ian Munns, Director of Policy and Education at WorkSafe, on 08 9327 8693.

Yours sincerely


Brian Bradley
Director General
Department of Commerce

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