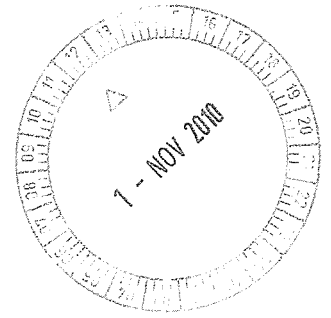


INQUIRY INTO COCKBURN CEMENT LTD. MUNSTER

Rita Richardson

**Health:**

I moved into this area in February 2009 after living in Bunbury for a number of years, although I have suffered from asthma for a number of years and have always had Ventolin and Seretide which originally only for morning and night, I have found I am having both medications on average 6 -7 times per day and my breathing is always laboured and audible with a continual cough, this I put down to the dust. Recently I was in Scotland visiting family, I had no cough, breathing was not laboured and medication was only required twice a day, on returning after 7 weeks within 24 hours I was again coughing and increasing the medication and the breathing rattle is back.

Dust:

The dust is very heavy on furniture internally. Externally it is very visible, when you sweep up the verandah for example, there is a shovel full, also the car is always thick with dust in a very short time after washing, the dust is damaging the paintwork. Plants also have dust coating their leaves.

Odour:

The odour is very pronounced and can be so bad that you do not sit outside or allow the grandchildren to play outside.

Property:

Where I live is a Dept of Housing and Works Complex for older persons, newly built in the past 2 years. It is surprising planning permission was given by the City of Cockburn for this or any other building in the area as there is quite a health hazard involved with the amount of dust and corrosion that is seen on vehicles in the area, one must ask the question if it does damage to vehicles that is evident what is it doing to individuals especially children in the long term. Obviously the Government, Council and the powers that be are aware of this long term problem as they have approved Cockburn Cement to have a free car wash to be offered to residents in the area, what was that decision going to solve?

Action:

I would ask: What action? The problem is still continuing, therefore any previous action was not effective. In this day and age there has to be a solution

1. Move the works to a non populated area.
2. Revoke the companies licence until they resolve the problem.
3. Continually monitor the levels
4. Insist the company set up a fund – in times to come it could well be the government will be dealing with a James Hardie type lawsuit for the damage to the communities health, with lung diseases etc.

Licences:

There should be a review of licence processes and of the rezoning of land where there are toxic type industries with no building licences for housing approved.

Any other relevant matter:

I hope this inquiry is thorough, honest and decisive when action is taken to make this business be responsible for their actions.