



Submission on Inquiry into Cockburn Cement Ltd, Munster.

By Tom Barrett

I have lived 1.2Km SE of the Cockburn Cement plant since 1982.

- Health issues.

My main concern is that when there is a strong wind from the NW the flue gasses from Cockburn Cement come directly over my property at ground level (I live on a hilltop). There is a strong sulphurous smell which in minutes leads to irritation of the mucous membranes in my throat and nose. When this happens I have to go indoors and shut all doors and windows. If the problem persists for more than 30 minutes I have to leave my house to escape the effects of breathing their exhaust fumes which inevitably creep into my house.

When the wind is in the right direction I can see the plume of flue gas leaving their stacks and heading for me, it is similar in appearance to looking up the exhaust pipe of a dirty truck except that the predominant colours are grey- brown with a bluish tinge. I have no idea what's in these emissions. Why do I have to breath their pollution?

My second concern is that the main focus of complaints is about dust, the problem of the flue gasses never gets a direct mention. It gets rolled up into a general complaint about smell. Cockburn Cement seem to want to manage the problem away from flue gasses and keep the problem focused on dust which seems to be more of a cosmetic problem than a health related one and presumably easier to fix.

- The license system.

There is a perception that DEC works around CC's emission problems to ensure the licence conditions are more than able to handle whatever CC wish to send up their stacks and over the neighbours. The same goes for CC's ravaging of the sea grass in Cockburn Sound. DEC seems to have one set of rules for big industry and another for minnows who they can easily push around.

The proposition that because CC was there first therefore we (neighbours) need to put up with their pollution is not appropriate for the 21st century. They've had a free run with this problem and been allowed to use other property owners airspace to receive their pollution. Well no longer! They should not be allowed to have anything escape their own airspace. Its time they invested in serious pollution control on all stacks or move out.

Tom Barrett.