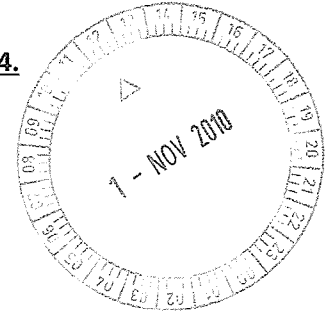


Legislative Inquiry into Cockburn Cement Ltd Munster WA 6164.

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs.



Concerned Resident and Rate payer.

Giuseppina Carciotto and Joseph Francica

We write expressing my concerns regarding the emissions fallout from Cockburn Cements Munster plant.

Cement particles on my roof and gutters.

I am scared that my garage roof may fall in due to the build up of particles which have settled on my garage roof and have filled my gutters. I do not know what the main roof of the house looks like as I can't get up there, but the garage roof has now started leaking and I have been advised by a tradesman, I need to have the roof dust blasted. I am a pensioner I can't afford this, and why would I want to blast the dust from my house to that of my neighbours?

Our Cars

Our cars are covered in dust every day. The dust even manages to get into the garage, to cover the cars. The windscreen wipers are so clogged they no longer remove the debris, which has now scratched the windscreen so badly it needs replacing. The duco and upholstery are all becoming ruined, and no amount of cleaning thoroughly removes the dust particles which are abrasive and corrosive. I have spoken to Cockburn cement, who have offered me free car washing at the plant and windscreen cleaning fluid, but who is able to clean a car in this way every day?

Windows and doors.

We live near the beach. I enjoy fresh air. When I moved in here 2003, I had superior security screens attached to my doors and windows allowing me leave them open at night to benefit from the cooling breezes. Sadly now I have my windows and doors closed most of the time, and sleeping near to the window at night has become a thing of the past as the dust finds its way through the mesh and on to bedding and furniture alike. Because of its corrosive nature, my beautiful furniture is fast becoming ruined.

Health issues.

I can honestly report that emissions have seriously increased over the past 12 months. Emissions appear to be heaviest during the night; they billow from the chimneys and fall where ever the wind takes them.

We had strong easterlies over the past few days; as a result of breathing in the dust in increased quantities, I have nasal congestion and a sore throat. My GP is concerned that a sore I have on my shin which refuses to heal, may be caused by the fall out.

Veggies and washing

My shrubs and veggie patch is often covered in dust, I particularly notice this when I water my garden. I think I must be eating the dust when I eat my home grown veggies.

My skin has become very itchy; I need to scratch constantly and my skin looks and feels awful. I think my skin is allergic to the dust which settles on my clean washing ,both personal articles of clothing and others, when I hang it out to dry. I itch all over.

Why?

Why hasn't local government done something about this dreadful situation? We pay our rates and be good citizens and householders. We don't create a nuisance for others. I am sure, should I have a bonfire in my garden everyday with smoke and ash falling on to other nearby properties, council would soon tell me to stop it. They would also punish me if I didn't stop it. Why then is Cockburn Cement allowed to do something similar without any penalties or punishment?

I invite you to come and live in my house for a day or two, so that you can experience what I am telling you. You will soon see that I neither lie nor exaggerate.

G. Carriotto
J. Froncica