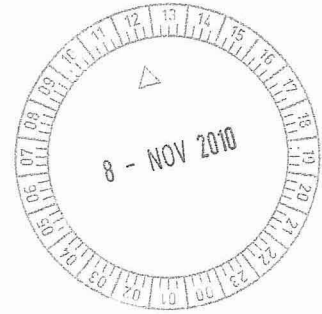




Your ref: A247295
Our ref: A1873/201001
Enquiries: Ian Briggs - Ph 9222 3600 Fax 9222 3682
Email: ian.briggs@dmp.wa.gov.au



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

Att: Linda Omar (Committee Clerk)

Dear The Hon Mr Ellis

INQUIRY INTO COCKBURN CEMENT LTD, MUNSTER

I thank you for your letter of 23 September 2010, inviting the Department of Mines and Petroleum (the Department) to comment on the above Inquiry.

The Cockburn Cement Limited operations are administered under the provisions of *Cement Works (Cockburn Cement Limited) Agreement Act 1971*. Under this Act, the Department has no statutory role relating to environmental issues arising from Cockburn Cement Limited's plant at Munster, or its operations within Cockburn Sound and Owen Anchorage. While the Department is aware of the issues to be addressed in the Inquiry, none fall within the Department's statutory functions and thus, it cannot provide informed comments on the specific matters to the Standing Committee.

In relation to other relevant matters, the Department in its role of providing advice on strategic resources for Western Australia has identified the resource being developed, and the associated cement production, as critical to the future development of public and private infrastructure in Western Australia.

The Department, as with all resource activities in Western Australia, would expect the operations of Cockburn Cement Limited to minimise risk to the public, employees and environmental values.

I appreciate your invitation to comment on these important matters, and if further information is required please contact Mr Ian Briggs (9222 3600) at the Department.

Yours sincerely

Richard Sellers
Director General

5 November 2010