

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**INQUIRY INTO COCKBURN CEMENT LIMITED, MUNSTER**

**TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE  
TAKEN AT PERTH  
MONDAY, 4 APRIL 2011**

**SESSION FOUR**

**Members**

**Hon Brian Ellis (Chairman)  
Hon Kate Doust (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Phil Edman  
Hon Colin Holt  
Hon Lynn MacLaren**

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**Hearing commenced at 12.00 noon**

**REEVE-FOWKES, MS CAROL**

**Yangebup Progress Association, sworn and examined:**

**HILL, MS JACQUELINE**

**Representative on EIP Cockburn Cement Group, sworn and examined:**

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for coming along, ladies. Welcome to this hearing. I must ask you to take either the oath or the affirmation.

[Witnesses took the oath.]

**The CHAIRMAN:** Please state the capacity in which you appear before the committee.

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** I am here today representing the Yangebup Progress Association.

**Ms Hill:** I have lived close to Cockburn Cement now for 30 years. I have been heavily involved in all the various committees since they started. I am also now on the new recent EPI group and I represent the ratepayers of Munster.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. You will have signed a document entitled “Information for Witnesses”. Have you read and understood this document?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** Yes, I have.

**Ms Hill:** I will be honest; I have not actually read it, but I assume it says, “Don’t tell porkies and make sure that everything you say is factual or I’m wasting your time and mine and putting myself in a lot of difficulty.”

**Hon KATE DOUST:** You have got it!

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I have reserved the comments I made last time!

**Ms Hill:** I know; you get lots of people stirring you up with silly crap. We are not here for that.

**Hon KATE DOUST:** Good on you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** These proceedings are being recorded by Hansard. A transcript of your evidence will be provided to you. To assist the committee and Hansard please quote the full title of any document you refer to during the course of this hearing for the record and please be aware of the microphones and try to speak into them. Ensure you do not cover them with papers or make noises near them. I remind you that your transcript will become a matter for the public record. If for some reason you wish to make a confidential statement during today’s proceedings, you should request that the evidence be taken in closed session. If the committee grants your request, any public and media in attendance will be excluded from the hearing. Please note that until such time as the transcript of your public evidence is finalised, it should not be made public. I advise you that publication or disclosure of the uncorrected transcript of evidence may constitute a contempt of Parliament and may mean that the material published or disclosed is not subject to parliamentary privilege. Hon Phil Edman could not attend today.

I formally ask whether you wish to make an opening statement to the committee about the situation in Cockburn.

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** Yes, I would like to make an opening statement on behalf of the Yangebup Progress Association. I hope it is okay to read from my notes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Yes.

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**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** The Yangebup Progress Association would like to confirm that they believe the dust problems and odour problems are getting worse and have been in particular now for the last couple of years. These opinions are borne out by the kiln trip data, which is confirmed by the minutes of the environmental improvement group. That can be verified through the minutes. The Yangebup Progress Association is frustrated that there is no measurable improvement to the average resident or household in Yangebup. The YPA also confirms that residents seldom bother complaining any more due to being fobbed off by Cockburn Cement and the ongoing changes in the management of Cockburn Cement over the last decade. Every couple of years the management changes and the new brooms promise to sweep clean. The community gives them a chance for a year or so and by the second year, they are complaining again and rallying about the dust problems yet again, resulting in Adelaide Brighton changing the management team again and hoping the residents will move away from the district.

[12.05 pm]

The Yangebup Progress Association feel that a cultural change is needed on the board of Adelaide Brighton, who appear to consider the Munster site as out of sight, and therefore out of mind, and the well intentioned staff members from CCL become the sacrificial lambs until the management changes again. The lack of definitive targets and key performance indicators in the last environmental improvement plan are a classic example of a company who are paying lip-service to community safety and amenity. Members of the environment improvement group argued long and hard for meaningful targets to create improvement, but it was always fobbed off through the process. We are now in another reincarnation of the environmental improvement group, now called Partnerships in Action, whereby the minutes of the meetings are not formally kept, and opportunities to raise any other business at the end of the meetings is prevented. This is not open and transparent. It is a stubborn, dogmatic attempt to gag the community, in the primary community forum which supposedly allows the community to be heard. This is not acceptable.

The YPA recognise the need for Cockburn Cement, and we acknowledge that it provides employment to the local community. But now that it has ramped up production to 100 per cent, CCL must do more to reduce its dust impact on the community. The health department reports clearly state that the dust from CCL has a chemical pH level of between 11 and 12.4 in alkalinity. That level of alkalinity is, as I understand it, a similar pH to household bleach. Clearly that level of alkalinity does not occur in the natural environment, except perhaps in a few soda lakes in the African Rift Valley. On that basis, this high level of alkaline dust being dropped onto our community, particularly in an area where young families are a strong demographic component, compels us to believe that we must consider the health impacts much more seriously than has been the case in the past. If this level of alkaline dust does not occur in nature, we must ensure that CCL takes all possible measures to reduce their impact on the surrounding families, and a precautionary principle must be applied in this case.

I recently experienced being caught in a kiln trip. This resulted in nose bleeds that went on for two and a half days. That evidence should be before you today, and I understand that you have a copy of that through our previous conversations. We know that CCL are producing at maximum capacity and made a \$151 million profit last year, according to their annual report. This fact confirms the YPA opinion that CCL must be required under their licence to take all further immediate measures to minimise and reduce their dust emissions, and that may include the building of the bag house filter for kiln number 5. Whilst I appreciate that this technology may not be ideal, that is no excuse to do nothing whatsoever and ramp up the production, as has been the case for the last decade. Back in 2002–2003, CCL were the subject of a thorough audit by the then minister, Judy Edwards, who insisted on a tripartite arrangement between CCL, the DEC and the community; and at that time, a lot more information was forthcoming.

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Since then, CCL has got more secretive and more evasive and more unwilling to release data, and relies heavily on modelling data. Modelling data is not the same as actual data or ground-truthing. Air dispersion modelling is only statistically relevant if a considerable number of data figures are included. I would urge this committee to ask exactly how many samples were taken for their modelling? I would ask the committee to consider: how did we end up reducing the amount of sampling back to annual or biannual sampling, as per the licence? Certainly this was not supported by the residents of Yangebup. Modelling does not take into consideration upset conditions and kiln trips. Anyone can bake a cake in an oven if it is working perfectly. Dispersion modelling has not been done under kiln trip conditions. Therefore, the community and the DEC do not have data on dust deposition after these events. Wind data clearly shows which way the dust blows. But if you check out where the various Cockburn Cement dust monitors are, you will find they are in the areas of least wind direction, and therefore least dust deposition. The Yangebup community has asked many times over the years for a dust monitor to be placed in Yangebup to confirm the levels of dust fallout in the community, but this has not happened.

Also in the past the Yangebup community has been very concerned by CCL frequently moving the dust monitoring systems, leading to no long-term dust data. When the dust monitors are moved, you do not have long-term background ambient levels to see if the dust levels are improving or not. Also, the dust monitors in the past were frequently subject to vandalism, and this was reported to the police. Either way, this sabotages data collected over another period of time—more lost data—whereby you can confirm whether the situation has got better or worse. Do you understand the point I am making there? If somebody moves the goalposts, how can you really tell how the game is going?

The YPA are not an unreasonable group, nor a particularly outspoken group. They do not get involved in the rallies or sensationalist media. They are a fairly conservative group, which is why their concerns need to be heard. I can provide you with more evidence which has been collected by various members of the community should you wish to see it. If the committee is willing to permit a short deferral of YPA evidence, more can be provided, including health analysis, and hair samples for heavy metal and chemical compounds.

Please know that the YPA is very concerned that the recent health department report so quickly identified the problems that the community has been raising regarding dust and its alkalinity. The community has been raising for years the etching of car paintwork, and the etching into people's solar hot water systems. One resident recently had several goats die over a period of a number of years, I understand through liver failure. If the water the goats were drinking had been contaminated by kiln trips, is liver failure a possible result? CCL recently told a resident to get on his roof and clean his solar hot water system. This was because there was dust on the actual system itself. The system was less than three months old; it was new.

There is much more data and evidence I could provide if you grant us an extension of time. It is important to know that the health report only covers two and half months' data, as one of the kilns was shut down during the time the tests were taking place. It could then be presumed that the actual figures and data could be higher than we have got in this brief health report dated February 2011 and December 2010. We would urge serious consideration of this data, and perhaps further investigation along this line of investigation.

On behalf of the Yangebup Progress Association, thank you.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. In your original submission, you stated that you did not want to see CCL shut down. What would you like to see happen to CCL?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** Firstly, we need to make sure that scrubbers are put in as quickly as possible. We need to make sure that they minimise their dust impact on the community. I believe that that can be developed through much more stringent licence conditions. The licence actually needs to include the ambient levels in the community, not just what comes out of the stack. There is no way

really under the licence conditions at the moment that we can clearly identify what is happening in the community when they have the kiln trips. Are you familiar with the kiln trips? They are like a big chimney sneeze. We have got data here that confirms 66 one month, 71 the next month, 99 the following month et cetera et cetera. If your car broke down 99 times in a month, would you not be thinking something is not quite right here; perhaps we should be getting this repaired, getting this fixed? This seems to be the average way of doing business—accepting this level of trips. The licence is based on what is coming out of the stack. What is coming out of the stack is a problem, but it is nowhere near as much in terms of devastation to the community as what is coming out in these kiln trips and these chimney sneezes. We must make sure that we are getting the ambient background dust levels in the community included in the licence so that we can have accurate data, not just modelled data on perfect conditions. We need data and ground truthing to see what is actually happening on the ground and what is actually happening to the community as a direct result of these impacts of the dust fallout.

[12.15 pm]

**The CHAIRMAN:** I want to pick up on something. You mentioned kiln 5 in your opening statement. Do you have any comments about kiln 3? We had submissions at one of the hearings suggesting that kiln 3 might be a bigger problem than the other kilns.

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** I think they are all a problem. They are all very, very old equipment. As I said, if you drive your 50-year-old car, you would expect a few mechanical problems along the way. The age is a considerable problem. We are not using state of the art technology on these kilns, because with the best will in the world they are dinosaur-type status. Specifically, as to kiln 3, do you want to add anything?

**Ms Hill:** It is an age-related thing. I have not written anything down, so I will ad lib and it will be very basic. The thing that I would like to keep in this room includes a copy of the emission lists for each of you, which was done in 2004 —

**The CHAIRMAN:** When you say that you want to keep —

**Ms Hill:** They were given out from Cockburn Cement. What I am saying is that I do not belong to any political party —

**The CHAIRMAN:** Excuse me, when you say you want to keep something confidential, are you requesting that?

**Ms Hill:** When I say “confidential” I would like you people to have access to this information and to read it in your own time and look at it and ask, “Does this warrant any action?” It is something that nobody has been aware of. If I started to tell you that 1.97 tonnes of cyanide came out of the stacks, 34 tonnes of hydrochloric acid and all these sorts of things —

**The CHAIRMAN:** Before you go on, I need to clarify something. Are you requesting that this evidence you are speaking about now remains private?

**Ms Hill:** It is your choice. I do not go to rallies with banners. I am happy for it to be tabled. If you feel more comfortable with it, and you have an opportunity to read it in your leisure and then you decide, then I am happy.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I think we will table that.

**Ms Hill:** Good, okay.

**The CHAIRMAN:** If you would state what it is for Hansard, the paperwork that you are tabling —

**Ms Hill:** Everything I have here I put together—I stayed up last night. My part of the deal is I have actually sorted out evidence in Cockburn Cement’s own print that we have been given over the years, so it is not just Jacky Hill spruiking off, because people get too emotive!

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**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** I may be able to help here. What we are doing now is holding a public hearing, and if there were any reporters in the room they could be taking notes.

**Ms Hill:** Fine.

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** The idea is that we publish the transcripts on the internet. However, there is an opportunity for you to provide private evidence that we can restrict from the public information stream. We are trying to clarify if you want this to be private or if you are okay with public evidence.

**Ms Hill:** Can I say why? Can I interject and say why I think private. If you had your biggest asset in your whole life tied up in a McMansion in Mevé and somebody put the submission list on the front of a paper, you would be devastated. It would not be helpful. It would crucify a lot of people—the stress and the worry.

**The CHAIRMAN:** To clarify then, you are happy to table —

**Ms Hill:** Yes.

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** As private?

**Ms Hill:** I want you to have it, but I am not saying, “We went to that meeting and they still haven’t told anybody —”

**The CHAIRMAN:** Excuse me, can you just listen to me for a minute?

**Ms Hill:** Sure.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Can you state for Hansard what that paperwork is that you are tabling, and then table that paperwork, and we will decide where to go with that.

**Ms Hill:** Yes, great. It is Cockburn Cement’s own aggregated rates of emissions; it is all Munster kilns 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6—understanding that kiln 1 is not used because it is so antiquated and cannot be brought back to life—and it assumes the kilns are on 320 days a year for all kilns, but as you know they work 24/7; that is what they like to do. Obviously we are talking about 2004, which is a while ago, but their production has probably almost doubled, and so will their emissions. Cockburn Cement cannot deny this. I think if you sit at home and look at them—do you want me to read something from them or not at this stage? It is pretty scary.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Just table the document and we can read that later.

**Ms Hill:** The other thing was —

**The CHAIRMAN:** You can just carry on with your opening statement.

**Ms Hill:** There was some information brought out that Cockburn Cement has it all under control and trips are not happening as often. This was actually given to the mayor and other people at a meeting. It was denied that they had had a number of trips in certain months, so I have gone back through my paperwork—there is a cover sheet—and Cockburn Cement’s own pages itemises the fact that we have gone from, for instance, in 2009 there were only 11 issues, right up to 91 issues —

**The CHAIRMAN:** Once again, can you state what that document is and table it?

**Ms Hill:** There is another letter that I sent to Kerrie Laszic and another one to Rob Giles. That was a recorded message where they had a 16-minute, totally-out-of-control kiln that had lost filtration, which I played to Graham Jacobs, Templeman, Garry Adshead and so on. I still have that tape, and that is the actual wording from it. I have done a lot of copies of the rates of emission, but I have only got one copy of the other things. As you will know, because of the lack of clean gas from the Dampier to Bunbury pipeline, they have now gone back on, I think, in excess of 300 tonnes of coal a year. There is an analyses of what is in coal—arsenic, for instance. That is one of the things that Carol is talking about: electrostatic precipitators do not filter out any gases, which evaporate at a much lower temperature. That is there for you.

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**The CHAIRMAN:** Is that all the documents you have got to table?

**Ms Hill:** No. There is one from the Cancer Council that itemises everything that is cancer causing, and every one is in Cockburn's emission lists. There are a couple of those and a couple of other letters that I have sent. Today I contacted two residents to see if they had any objection to me tabling two recent hair samples, which I have organised. Due to the time frame, I have not had time to get through any more. They have given me permission for those; they do not care what happens to them.

**The CHAIRMAN:** So they can be tabled?

**Ms Hill:** Yes. You might query later on about the Bureau of Meteorology and how do we know where this wind goes. I have a printout here showing the 5 300 printouts done over a 20-month period every three hours, with letter from the Bureau of Meteorology saying that they cannot be contradicted. It proves that all the gripes that you are getting, and all these rally people, they are all living exactly north east of that plant. You see, when I moved there 30 years ago there was hardly anybody; now, there are thousands. How did the WAPC allow all that transfer of land from bush to housing?

**Hon KATE DOUST:** Have you any other documents you need to table?

**Ms Hill:** Sorry if I am long winded, but I am very passionate about it; I have a social conscience.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I just wanted to stipulate which documents you will table.

**Ms Hill:** I will give you all those copies of emissions so you do not have to have them printed.

**Hon KATE DOUST:** Carol, when you gave your opening statement you made reference to a number of documents as well. Do the documents that Jacky just tabled include all of those, or do you have any more in addition to that?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** I am assuming—I could be wrong—that you have copies of the health department reports.

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** Yes.

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** That was the other one. I cannot think of any others. The hair sample one is included in Jacky's evidence.

**Ms Hill:** There are two of those.

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** Were there any others?

**Hon KATE DOUST:** I think that is probably all. I just wanted to make sure that there were no others, and we have everything tabled and out of the way.

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** Certainly, we have some stuff tabled. We have heaps more. We can give you heaps more, if you want heaps more covering a period of over a decade.

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** Let us see how we go with what you have given us.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We can table everything relevant to this hearing.

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** Obviously, Jacky, you have been following this for a long time, and it would be interesting to hear from you what you think is the solution. You mentioned scrubbers. Are you of the opinion that wet scrubbers are the answer, and how do you feel about the commitment they have made to put in a baghouse filter?

**Ms Hill:** I think they were running scared. They have never had so much pressure. They have not ever been in the limelight so acutely as they are now. That has forced them to commit themselves, because they fought the baghouse issue for a long time and said that they would just block up. But you would be aware that brickworks up in Midland, especially in Swan, were given a time frame—I do not know if it is two or three years—to fit baghouses, which they did and it has reduced their

emissions dramatically. Here we have five kilns. We are talking about two years to get one on one kiln. But there is a lot better technology. For instance, in America and Germany, where I went and had a look at kilns, they have scrubbers. Scrubbers are so much more state-of-the-art technology because they take out the gases. When you think of arsenic evaporating around 400 degrees celsius, those stack temperatures are on average around 1 200 to 1 400 degrees celsius. Also, a long time ago I bought 500 red balloons, had them printed, and sent them off from the Cockburn Cement works; they had numbers on them. It proved conclusively—they went 200 kilometres and they had flotation period of 20 hours. I had Greenpeace down; this was a long time ago; in '95 I think it was. More recently I got involved with the Bureau of Meteorology. Why did I do it? As Carol was saying, the monitors were not in the right places. The monitors were giving low readings. I had people ringing me from Mevé to say that Cockburn Cement had given them a canister for dust collection. I know that they are supposed to be collected within a certain time frame, and they are supposed to be processed very quickly. I was told there were four and five day delays. I have the people's names and addresses. I have all this information, so it is not hearsay, I can back it up.

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** Going back to what you were saying, you visited other places to check out their technology.

**Ms Hill:** Yes, better technology is scrubbers. But, again, I got Declan Mackle in dialogue and said, "You are talking about baghouses but they still do not take out any of the gases and vapours." He said, "No, that's true." Then when I mentioned scrubbers, he said, "Look Jacky, if we spent that sort of money they would be worth more than the kilns are worth." In fact, he lost his job. I have been through six managers. I have a statutory declaration. I was offered a free trip to England to see how they do them over there—with a couple of people. I got a stat dec signed at the time to prove that I had actually been offered this. It was Gareth Ward, who was one of the past managers and so on. It is very murky. They threatened to sue me, or one of the people there threatened to sue me, and I said, "Bring it on" because it would be the only way I could get these emission lists and things out in the public arena. But I do not want to cause havoc. Nothing is black; nothing is white. If we could do this in-house and they could be told to, "Come on, up your game. You have got to do something about this."

**The CHAIRMAN:** In regard to that, what is the association's position or view on the new amended licence CCL has to operate under that was handed down in December?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** It does not go far enough. It does not have enough strength to it. It does not have enough teeth to it. If the licence is purely based on modelling, not actual sampling, then it is garbage in, garbage out. If you only have, say, four or five samples taken, how is that statistically relevant over a 365-day year, and those samples are taken under good conditions as opposed to upset conditions? We have not got any modelling done on upset conditions. On that basis, what is put in the licence is on a perfect sunny day. We actually have rain, wind storms and all sorts of climates from a meteorological point of view. We also have the same sorts of upset circumstances with Cockburn Cement. Some days their system works perfectly and on other days they have a lot of upset conditions. If the licence is based purely on perfect conditions, the community is not getting an accurate assessment of what is really happening. On the basis that we have health concerns around the alkalinity of the dust, we must ensure that the licence has enough teeth into it to make sure that the community is not being impacted by the upset conditions. That is because we have not got perfect conditions every day; and the licence is geared around perfect conditions and perfect modelling assessments, not on the truth of what is going on, on the ground.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Are you satisfied with the new requirements for kiln 6? I know you mentioned kiln 5.

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** In terms of what is coming out of the stack, yes. In terms of what is being deposited on the ground every time the kiln trips, no; it does not go anywhere near far enough. How are the trips being recorded? How is what is going on on the ground when the dust falls out being



recorded? It is not; it is not in the licence conditions! The licence conditions are about perfect conditions, what is going up the stack and how it may disperse, and not what happens when the chimney sneezes. We know from the data here that there were 100 trips one month; 61 trips the following month; and 77 the following month. Seventy-seven of these impacts on the community are not being registered. There were 99 the following month. They are not being registered. That factor is so critical to the environment and the amenity of the people living in that area, yet we are not taking that on board. We must, because if the alkalinity of this dust is potentially as corrosive to nasal passages and lungs of the demographic of the young community that is there, and we are not taking that into consideration, then we are failing —

**Ms Hill:** We are negligent in our duty of care, aren't we?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** We are failing in terms of the duty of care. It cannot just be about the environment. We have got to make sure that we have looked after the health aspects as well. As I said, this level of alkalinity is not occurring anywhere in the natural world. If it is not, then we must be adopting that precautionary principle to make sure that we have taken care of the community, particularly all those young families living in these areas. We do not want to be sensationalist here. We do not want the media to have a field day, but we are asking for serious consideration to make sure that we have got it right and to make sure there are enough teeth in that licence to protect these people. Thank you.

[12.30 pm]

**The CHAIRMAN:** You did mention the environment improvement plan group and what is it called now —

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** Partnerships in Action.

**Hon COL HOLT:** It probably should be two words—Partnership Inaction—sorry.

**Hon KATE DOUST:** How long has that version been going for?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** They started to establish it over the Christmas–New Year period.

**Hon KATE DOUST:** Of last year—of 2010?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** Yes, four or five months ago. The EIP ran out in 2009 but we kept soldiering on because one of the things I insisted on was that we kept having the meetings because it gave a forum for the community to get back to Cockburn Cement and say, “Look, things aren't getting any better here.”

**Ms Hill:** The first thing the facilitator put forward was that perhaps we could do away with the minutes.

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** Yes, they do not want minutes kept at meetings; they now want to call them key messages.

**Ms Hill:** We have been told we are not to discuss anything that is in the minutes, and now with this new procedure, people can come as observers, but they cannot ask questions; it has to be through the chair and they are fobbed off severely.

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** This latest round of what you can do and what you cannot do at the meeting now includes they have removed the general business category. Any normal meeting usually has an “any other business” or a “general business” category. They have now removed that completely and they only want questions on notice from the community, so basically the people that sit behind me who I represent, I cannot put forward any questions that they may have from the floor around the table. Cockburn Cement claims to want open, honest, transparency of process and yet they do not actually want to hear from the people that may suddenly hear something which may lead to a question or somebody that brings something in on the night.

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**The CHAIRMAN:** Can I just ask the question—I am being a bit of a devil’s advocate—I am just wanting to know the reasoning why, as you are saying, there will not be any minutes. Have any of the meetings been disruptive?

**Ms Hill:** Not within our group. They did have a procedure like this before where they had a facilitator who encompassed everybody, open and accountable, and the carry-on because you have got a lot of market gardeners there with language problems and so on screaming and yelling and carrying on, and that is why it stopped all that. It was a long time ago, but we have now got a similar type of facilitator who is saying to us, “What we’d like to do now is have a representative from each of the schools in the area because we were going to take them and show them our new tree planting and how we are rehabilitating our quarries.” The whole thing is stopping us from our whole goal, which has been for the last 18 years, in my case—that is, particularly to work on emissions; forget everything else, let us see what we can do to reduce those emissions and therefore reduce any impact on the population. Do not forget there were very few people there when I moved in, now it is—if one of you hopped in your car sometime, went down, you would absolutely be amazed at how close they have allowed the land developers to come. In fact, there is another big one on there, I cannot see how they will sell it, because you look up and there is the Cockburn Cement stack. It is scary.

**The CHAIRMAN:** So, just to get it clear: there is no recording at all, not by minutes or electronically?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** There is no electronic record. I have insisted on minutes and it is actually there—put in their key messages—but the documents come out again and again; they are now called key messages rather than minutes. You cannot approve previous minutes; you cannot have business arising from previous minutes, not in the same format that we used to be able to have in the past, so it is a concern that the whole process has changed and changed to the exclusion—really in some ways of gagging the community, because they really do not want to hear from them unless they have put questions in writing beforehand.

I will just raise briefly with you, they have done a new iteration of the environmental improvement plan. The community, myself and other members of the community worked long and hard over a number of years, workshopped time after time, to get an environmental improvement plan put in place. The primary concerns, the primary reasons, were the stack emissions from the lime kilns and the fugitive dust emissions. This is all in February 06–09, February 08, where we actually had an environmental improvement plan that had a series of boxes, so you could actually see the area you were looking to improve, community concerns, Cockburn Cement actions, how the measurement was going to be improved, and the current situation, the current status of how it was going. The new environmental improvement plan just has one small box which says “air quality management” so all our concerns about dust emissions, all our concerns about gaseous emissions, amenity to the neighbourhood, we are now just all under one title which is called “stack emissions to improve process, stability and associated monitoring”. There are no KPIs, there are no targets and there is no way that it is going to be coming back to the community to identify how things are improving. We argued long and hard over the last three years for this environmental improvement plan, that it had to have targets, it actually had to have measurable improvements or ways of finding measurable improvement. That has gone in the current one.

**Hon KATE DOUST:** Who chairs this partners in action?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** There is an independent facilitator, a gentleman by the name of Ron Kemp.

**Hon KATE DOUST:** And where is he from?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** I do not know where he is from. He works, I think, as a private consultant. I could find the contact details for you. Ron Kemp has actually been the independent facilitator for a number of years. His evidence actually could be quite interesting if you were to call him.

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**Hon KATE DOUST:** What is the frequency of these meetings?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** Bimonthly, so every other month.

**Hon KATE DOUST:** When is the next one due?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** May—about the second or third Tuesday of May. Most of last year they did try and actually defer the meetings; there was always a reason why—somebody was not in town—we could not have the meetings, so you end up with a period of time, perhaps six months, has gone between meetings.

**Hon KATE DOUST:** Whereabouts are they held?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** They are actually held at the Cockburn Cement training room in the Cockburn Cement building. Under the original tripartite agreement through former minister Judy Edwards, it was agreed to hold them off site because they felt that the community was a little bit intimidated by having to go to the Cockburn Cement building. These meetings, with respect, have a considerable number of Cockburn Cement employees —

**Ms Hill:** I was going to say we are outnumbered. When was it, the last meeting—two of us or was it three?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** Two or three members of the community, but many employees from Cockburn Cement. They will have their environmental manager, they will have a works manager, they will have the general manager, they will have —

**The CHAIRMAN:** Whose fault is that? I mean, is the community just not turning up or lost interest?

**Ms Hill:** I think a lot of people have worked very hard and seem to be getting nowhere.

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** A lot of people moved away—they have had enough.

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** I was going to ask about your opinion of the, I think it was, Department of Health's spokesperson in the *Cockburn Gazette* who was quoted as saying that residents should stay indoors. Do you recall that?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** Yes, I do recall that.

**Hon LYNN MacLAREN:** And what was your response to that?

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** My response to that is, well, under those circumstances, I do tend to go indoors or would have gone indoors. I lived in Yangebup for a number of years and I brought up three young children in Yangebup. We moved away because of the dust. We were there from '92 to 2000, so we moved away because of the dust because it was not improving; if anything, it was ramping up production. So on that basis, if that was a comment made by the health department, I feel that that is a fair assessment based on what happened to me when I happened to be under the kiln trip on 1 March. My window was down in my car, I had just left the Cockburn Cement site and kiln 6 sneezed. I was sitting at the traffic lights, I could not go anywhere, I wound up my window quickly, I went on to the next set of traffic lights where there were three workmen standing on the corner. One pulled his T-shirt over his face, the dust was just getting obviously too much, he was perhaps having a problem with it, I drove on. That was exactly at midday. By two o'clock in the afternoon I was getting sort of a snuffly nose and I thought, "Oh, maybe I've got a cold coming." By four o'clock, I had blown my nose several times and my nose started bleeding and my nose continued to bleed for the next two and a half days. That was a fact. I did not develop a cold, I did not have a virus, but I was exposed to—by just being in the wrong place at the wrong time—a chimney sneeze. That is exactly how it happened. I have sent the email through as evidence because this happened to me. If this happens to me, the anecdotal evidence that we are getting in the community that the children are getting blood noses, the children are getting respiratory problems—I was talking to a lady just the other day who tells me that two of her children have now just been

diagnosed with asthma and they have only just moved into the area. We have to be more aware of what exactly is going on here. If there is an alkalinity dust problem affecting the nasal mucus membrane or whatever, then we have got to be very careful what is happening here. We do not want the sensationalist stuff out in the media; but at the same time, we want to make sure that the licence has got enough teeth in it to protect these people. We have got to make sure the relevant government departments are working together to ensure that we are protecting the community as best we can.

**Ms Hill:** For instance, that 16-minute trip, which the environmental officer left a message on my answering machine, that was not reported to DEC officially and then when I—I could tell you the person's name, but I will not—contacted the person at DEC Kwinana, he said, "Do you know? It only went for two minutes." He also said to me, "Jackie, you're obsessed with what comes out of those kilns. I know what's in the emission list, but think about this: it comes out with millions and millions of tonnes of air and it disperses it safely." I have been to a Kwinana industrial council meeting since then and I have asked all the eminent people could someone please explain to me to where does it disperse it safely? In wintertime we have things called inversions, where the clouds come down and if you live in a hollow, you have got fog. So wintertime for the people living close to that plant is terrible because the pollution does not get up and carry, whereas in summertime the Freo doctor comes in about 12 or one 'clock and that is when it blows all this stuff way up over all those residents and up the Swan coastal plain. Katestone modelling, a very respective company, they have said that at a meeting. I mean, I could drag up the past and say I went to—I have got the information there, too, to prove it. There is a mob called Stack-Air, they do testing. The manager of Stack-Air was going to do official testing in front of invited guests, so we went, we sat there for about an hour and a half and the guy came in and lost his cool and said, "God! How could I stack test kiln 4? There's not a ruddy platform up there to put any of my equipment and the probe they gave me doesn't even go into the thing far enough to get a reading, It is impossible," he said, "to get a reading from that." So I thought, "Right, well how are we getting all these readings?"

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** How are they getting the readings?

**Ms Hill:** Modelling. So I said, "Well, is modelling very good?" He said, "No, it's open to human error, it can be tampered with, very unreliable and it is all assumptions." They dismissed Stack-Air, then that is when they went to Katestone modelling.

**The CHAIRMAN:** If there are no further questions, I thank you ladies for coming in and giving evidence.

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** Thank you. We can probably come up with more written evidence if you want more from us.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I think at this stage you have supplied —

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** We do not want to overload you!

**Ms Hill:** I think what you have got there is factual, because I talk in some of letters about them wanting to burn tyres—this was as recently as 2007—they said it is encapsulated in the product. So you have got everything in there that shows you what is in tyres, so it is backed up, not just us speaking.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for that.

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** One final thing: try putting in a complaint to Cockburn Cement. It is very, very hard.

**Ms Hill:** You ring up, let us get the roadmap out, pretend you are living down the street, and see what happens.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Okay.

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**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** It is almost like they do not welcome complaint data.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for your evidence anyway.

**Ms Reeve-Fowkes:** Thank you very much for seeing us and giving us your time. It is much appreciated.

**Hearing concluded at 12.41 pm**