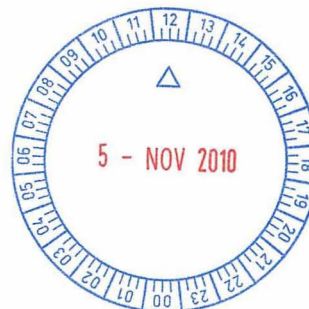


PUBLIC

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Linda Omar  
Committee Clerk  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000



Spearwood Community Association  
John Cunai (Chairperson)

### **Inquiry into Cockburn Cement Ltd, Munster**

This submission has been developed to express the concerns of the Spearwood Community Association regarding the ongoing dust and emissions from Cockburn Cement which seem to have worsened in the last few years.

#### **Attachments:**

- a) Letter from Spearwood resident **Jennefer Hollmann**.
- b) *Letter from Spearwood resident Loris Bola.*
- c) *Letter from S.C.A Chairperson (John Cunai) On behalf of Members.*
- d) *Actual map of area, highlighting Cockburn cements' location.*
- e) *Aerial map of Spearwood.*

### **Terms of Reference**

- 1. Health, environmental, dust, odour, property and other concerns arising out of the operation of the Cockburn Cement Ltd Plant, Munster.**

The Spearwood Community Association represents the community of Spearwood which has a population of approximately 9631 people. There are many young families raising their children in Spearwood, in fact about 1193 of our residents are children between the ages of 0 – 11 years, while there are about 641 adolescents between the ages of 12 – 17 years. There are approximately 5385 adults between the ages 18 – 59 years, while a significant number of our older residents, 2412, are 60 years and over.

Spearwood is bounded in the north by a line from Cockburn Road through reserve to the Phoenix and Rockingham Roads intersection, and Phoenix Road, in the east by Stock Road, in the south by Barrington Street, Rockingham Road, Troode Street, Hamilton Road, and Beeliar Drive, and in the west by Cockburn Road (please see map attached).

The Spearwood Community Association provides a medium for residents to be involved in and have a say in what happens in the suburb they live. The Association has recently received an increase in complaints, particularly from those living in the south of our suburb, regarding emissions from Cockburn Cement. Complaints include:

- Residents are becoming increasingly concerned about the health effects on themselves and their children such as, asthma and other respiratory problems. Is it affecting our ground soil, our gardens and our water supplies?
- Dust and odour to residential properties is limiting the time community members, both adults and children, can spend outdoors in their own yards enjoying the benefits of physical activity such as gardening, walking, playing sport and children playing.
- Houses, outdoor areas and cars are continually being covered in cement/lime dust despite frequent cleaning attempts. We can only expect residents emerging with feelings of hopelessness, depression and a loss of morale and pride in their properties.
- Residents are concerned the impact these emissions are having on house prices and the stigma of their suburb and those surrounding.

## **2. The adequacy of action to address the above concerns.**

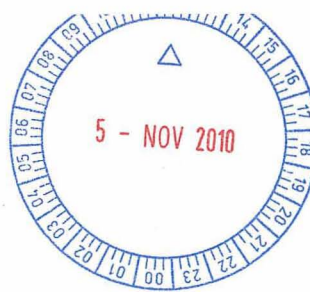
Research must be undertaken without delay and priority given to the health and environmental effects arising out of the operation of Cockburn Cement and the follow on social and economic impact.

## **3. The process of issuing and amending licenses.**

We feel the License for Cockburn Cement should be revoked and reviewed once research results are clear.

## **4. Any other relevant matters.**

To Hon Brian Ellis (MLC)  
'Chair'



I joined the Spearwood Community Association in April 2006, (Current). During this time I have learned that the 'Cockburn Cement' odorous dust emissions have been a contentious issue for more than two decades.

We the SCA committee members have fielded a number of complaints from not only our residents but from others living in surrounding suburbs of Yangebup, Beeliar & Munster. Some of those complaining residents have since left the district, others are now deceased.

This issue has been ON and OFF the SCA'S agenda since my affiliation!

In mid 2007 our association called a special meeting, inviting the then 'Environmental officer' from Cockburn Cement (whose name eludes me) to field questions and other concerns from the community. This was held at the 'Anglican Church building' Mell road Spearwood, some 90 Cockburn residents attended this special meeting. Many residents left this meeting angry at the answers given and the technical jargon used to explain their methods of controlling odorous emissions.

As a small community volunteer group we were uncertain as to what steps should be taken next, plus time constraints on committee members meant we let it be?

We are pleased our local parliamentary member 'Fran Logan MLA has taken up this issue on behalf of his constituents.

As a volunteer community group we understand this cement/lime factory has been in its current location for somewhat four decades or so!

However with urban encroachment we expect 'Cockburn Cement pty ltd' to be responsible corporate citizens, thus invest some of their profits towards modern efficient 'Stack emission filtration systems' that would eliminate all harmful odorous dust that we believe is coming from their production site.

We prefer not to appear before the committee.

On behalf of 'Spearwood Community Association Members'.

Thank you, for the State Governments inquiry into Cockburn Cement Ltd, Munster.

John Cunai

Chairperson

Spearwood Community Association Inc



