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**ATTENTION: Linda Omar**

**Impact of odour from RRRC on my family.**

Our family home is located about 1200 meters from the RRRC, so we get the stench from this facility on a very regular basis. I am truly fed up with this constant barrage of stinking odour.

I have been emailing complaints to all concerned, but due to the total lack of action from all parties, frustration, disappointment, and depression, I have given up. Now I just have to sit here and rot in this stinkfest.

I just feel really sorry for my 14-year-old daughter who is suffering.

This is the effect it is having on our lives:

**Health:**

Our Family symptoms:

**Simon**

- Unable to sleep – tiredness.
- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Constant coughing
- Nausea
- Lack of concentration / memory
- Scratchy sore throat
- Extremely itchy eyes, and peeling of skin inside eye lids
- Constantly watering eyes
- Stress, anxiety and depression due to the lack of concern and action by government offices.

I cannot sleep with the windows open in my own bedroom. It's at the front of the house, closest to the RRRC, and the odour is unbearable. As the room is not air-conditioned, you can imagine what it was like this summer just passed.

I stopped drinking in the New Year (2007) to lose weight, and because I was waking up in the morning feeling very ordinary. I assumed it was too much alcohol. After two weeks, I couldn't work out why I was still waking up feeling like I had a hangover. Then I researched the chemicals being pumped out by the RRRC and bingo. All the symptoms I suffer are the same as those caused by the chemicals being produced. I frequently travel away from home on business. While away I can sleep well, with the windows open, and not suffer any of the above symptoms.

My doctor has told me that I'm suffering from allergies and unless I undergo testing and desensitising (expensive) I'm stuck with it. All of this leads to a very grumpy, depressed father and husband.

**Suzanne (Wife)**

- Nausea
- Headaches

**Paige (Daughter)**

- Unable to sleep
- Itchy eyes
- Sore throat
- Nausea, throwing up in middle night (Doctor unable to tell us why)
- Loss of school days

**Even our dog Milo:**

- Itchy eyes – vet for drops and crème
- Inflamed, red, Itchy ears

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These are just a few of the occurrences influenced by the RRRC odour that have affected our lives:

- Brother in Law visited from Melbourne, commented about odour and asked how we put up with it. His two children kept saying, "It stinks".
- Sister in Law, her husband, and their three kids visited from Melbourne for four weeks, and constantly commented on the very strong smell.
- My daughter's friends don't want to come here and use the pool, because of the smell.
- I don't want them to use the pool, because I don't know if the water is contaminated.
- Having to keep all doors and windows shut, when it's hot and, a cool breeze is blowing outside.
- Any outdoor activity is "unpleasant" to say the least
- We can't use the cycle way near home
- We can't practice netball or softball in the yard
- I can't work in my garage
- We have actually invited friends over for a BBQ on a few occasions, and then had to cook indoors because of the smell.
- Won't go to the Canning Vale markets anymore
- Gardening? What can I say?

The latest occurrence was a BBQ for my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday last month. I stood outside and cooked while everyone else stayed indoors due to the stink from the RRRC.

#### **Financial:**

- Drop in value of our home and much reduced ability to sell.
- Spending a small fortune on Vet bills and Doctor's bills, eye drops, nose sprays, throat lozenges, anti histamines etc etc

#### **Miscellaneous:**

- The stink at the Westpac bank (corner of Bannister road and South Street) is unbelievable.
- When we get the odour, it is incredibly strong at the corner of South Street and the Roe Highway.
- I spoke to an employee at Soils Ain't Soils in Canning Vale. The stink was very strong when I was there. I asked how they cope with the stench. She said they just put up with it. When I asked her if it was affecting the staff, and she told me that the Canning Vale branch staff take many more sick days than any other branch. Interesting.

I have driven the suburbs at night on many occasions to confirm that the odour is indeed coming from the RRRC. Even though I have done this the RRRC tell me:

- It's not the RRRC producing the odour
- It's bore water I can smell
- There is no odour problem (even though they have spent millions on upgrades)

Basically, our family and friends can no longer live the Australian lifestyle, and in Perth it used to be better than anywhere else.

If the Facility was there when we moved into the area, then I'd shut up, but it wasn't. It was built many years after we moved here.

- It was built far too close to residential areas
- It was under funded initially – that's why it won't work properly
- It has been shut down by government departments – then allowed to reopen and continue producing this strong odour, with no action from anyone.
- It's been patched up (unsuccessfully) more than once, and consumed millions of dollars.

If I had no conscience, I would sell my home tomorrow and get out, even though it would be thousands of dollars undervalued. But I could not do that to another family and sleep at night.

The RRRC facility needs to be shut down and relocated a long, long way away from any residential area. When is enough, enough?

Regards,

  
Simon Mykolajenko.

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