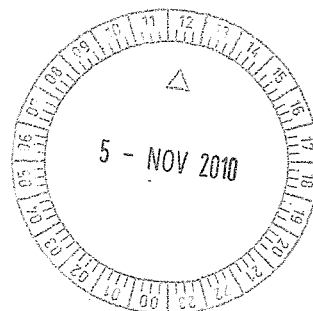


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PUBLIC



Ms Linda Omar,
Committee Clerk,
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs,
Legislative Council,
Parliament House,
Perth, WA, 6000
(fax 9222 7805)

1. Health, environmental, dust, odour, property and other concerns

My experience while reading meters in Yangebup, running on Beeliar Oval, and delivering mail in western Beeliar, has been that whenever south westerly winds are reasonably strong, a gassy odour seems to permeate the areas of Beeliar and Yangebup. This odour has several times made me feel dizziness, nausea, and affected my ability to run hard. While running at Santich Park in Munster one time I felt that way also, when the winds were south easterly. On a daily basis I check the weather forecast for wind directions for this reason, and I have often advised my wife not to go out walking when south westerly winds are blowing (most afternoons!) as I am worried about the affect of the invisible and sometimes visible fumes from Cockburn Cement. I am worried about the affect on my health and my young families health.

If I had known about this I might not have moved into the area in early 2009. I can't afford to move at the moment. I have also noticed that bush areas close to the Cockburn Cement plant appear to be very dead, and after one run near to that area I decided never to run again within 5km of the plant, and advised my other running mates the same. As a marathoner, and meter reader I am very aware of weather and environmental conditions, and am concerned about the long term effects on my health from living too close to Cockburn Cement, and this impacts in a negative way on our life every week for more than a year.

2. Adequacy of action to address the above concerns

It seems to me that 2 years is too long to wait to address the problem of emissions. (I am referring to the plans to install a bag-house filter on Kiln 6 in 2 years time.)

I am also concerned about media reports that suggest a switch to oil based fuel burning, as the media reports suggest that this means more possibility of cancer. If something is not done, I will be trying to find a way to move out of the area soon, as I have ever since I arrived in the area, despite the wonderful local oval, excellent local shops, proximity to the city, and many other family friendly assets in this suburb, including the fantastic views from the top streets of Beeliar, which unfortunately also provide excellent views of the pollution spewing from Cockburn Cement around the clock, every day.

3. The process of issuing and amending licences

Media reports suggest to me that this may be being done in a way that favours Cockburn Cements interests above the legitimate health concerns of nearby residents. That is not acceptable to the people of Western Australia, and if that is the case, then a class action in future might be appropriate?

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4. Any Other relevant Matter

While I understand Cockburn Cement has a business to run, and there are risks in everything in life, I just feel that local residents are being short-changed here in terms of our long-term health, and day to day living. I hope a mutually acceptable better outcome for all parties can be reached on this issue, whether that means re-locating Cockburn Cement, or offering financial incentive to local residents to move to a safer area, or filters and other controls to reduce emissions at Cockburn Cement, I don't care as long as something IS done to address this matter, rather than play games with licences, and pretending to do something about it.

Regards

Jonathon Phillips