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From:

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To:

Ms Linda Omar, Committee Clerk,

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs,

Legislative Council Parliament House Perth WA 6000

Facsimile No: 92227805

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Message

ENQUIRY INTO COCKBURN CEMENT LTD, MUNSTER

We took up residence here in March 1997. Since then we have noticed an increase in the fine grey dust, that is very much like cement dust, deposited on our cars, house walls and roof.

We have 48 solar panels that generate electricity that feed into the Western Power network. We also have 2 large hot water collector panels and 1 small 12 volt panel that maintains a battery. I found that using a garden hose to remove the dust did not work. Last Saturday I spent 4 hours brushing the panels with water mixed with detergent and then rinsing them with clean water. I estimate that it takes abut 200 litres of water and, when it doesn't rain, I need to repeat the operation in as little as 4 weeks. I estimate that the efficiency of the panels increases between 20% and 30% after cleaning.

In January this year I repainted the house. Of particular note was the aluminium front security screen door. The grey dust had eaten through the metal in several places and I was forced to fill the holes before applying the paint.

Our cars are constantly being covered in the fine grey dust. I know it is different from the dark grey dust that comes from earth works. It is essential to wash our motor cars weekly. If the wash is delayed, I have to scrub really hard to remove the dust.

We would like to put a rain water tank on the property. However, as we have concerns about the Cockburn Cement dust that lands on the roof, we have delayed this project.

Marille Campbell