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David Nero

18 October 2010

Linda Omar Legislative Council Parliament House PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Linda Omar

RE - LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY INTO COCKBURN CEMENT LTD - MUNSTER

My wife & I have been residents in Beeliar for approximately 3 ¾ years, a great area to live for a number of reasons, though the odour & dust emissions from Cockburn Cement provide a major downside to a point which have had us considering leaving a number of times.

Though the odours are very unpleasant, I believe they are liveable because they are off and on, however the dust is horrible and I am very concerned of what it maybe doing to our health and house & content. The dust is a white/grey very fine sandy type substance, which can be found in and around the house.

One hot summer night we opened the majority of the windows then, within a few hours the main family room was like a sand pit. Since we have never opened up our south facing windows meaning we need to now live with a poorer indoor air quality.

We have had to re wash clothes if they are kept on the line for too long, windows are dirty again within days after washing and there is almost no use washing your car because of it will be re covered in dust within hours. I believe this must have other environmental impacts, for example water wastage is generally higher, I need to use more water to re wash the clothes and more frequently wash the windows and cars.

The most frustrating issue is not being able to entertain guests in our alfresco area, after I hose down the outdoor furniture and surrounding area, the place is back to its dusty self within hours. How can you have a BBQ knowing such dust is floating around onto your food, it's on the chair you're seating on and floor you're walking on which then leads into the house of course.

I do not wish Cockburn Cement to close or move away, I would just like them to reduce the dust emissions to a respectable level. I am concerned for our health firstly, then our house & content which I assume would weather away quicker then most houses due to the lime content within the dust. Considering the cost of building & maintaining a house and how hard we work to pay the mortgage, it's a hurtful emotional scenario knowing your life investment or dream home is being eaten away or as the word gets out selling value reduces because of dust from a cement factory.

Yours faithfully

David Nero