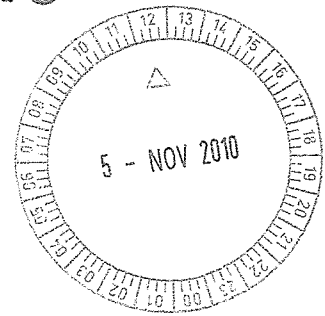


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Hon Brian Ellis MLC  
Chair  
Environment and Public Affairs Committee  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
WEST PERTH WA 6000

Mr Chairman

**Submission to the Inquiry into Cockburn Cement Ltd, Munster**

As residents of Beeliar we are motivated by concerns about the cement kiln dust emissions generated by Cockburn Cement at its Munster facility. To that end, please find enclosed our submission to your Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margaret Bates".

Mrs Margaret Bates

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Greg Bates".

Mr Greg Bates

1. We have been living in the Meve estate in Beeliar since late 2004. When we purchased our block of land, it was disclosed that due to the proximity of the Beeliar Wetlands, midgies could be a problem in summer. There was no information about the emissions from the cement plant. We accept that as buyers we had a responsibility to 'beware' of the risks in the area; however, when the developer discloses one risk and not another, it seems almost dishonest – distracting potential buyers by pointing out a lower risk factor and creating the impression that other risks are non-existent.
2. At the time that we were inspecting land to buy, we observed what we later realized were dust traps on some of the higher points of the development. We were not told what they were for or who placed them there. If they were placed there by the developer (or with the knowledge of the developer) it might be worth considering why they were placed there at the time – were the issues of dust pollution known and, if so, by whom?
3. Put simply, if we had known the extent of the issues caused by the dust, we would not have purchased land in the area.
4. Detailed below are problems caused by the dust:
  - a) The dust gets into the house through open windows or doors, or through the air-conditioning vents. As a result, the house is never actually clean. Within 24 hours of cleaning, there is usually a fine layer of dust on kitchen bench tops, tables and on the floor. It turns 'muddy' when wet and leaves small mud patches.
  - b) Outdoor furniture is impossible to keep clean and it means that outdoor entertaining in the summer is difficult.
  - c) The dust is 'sticky' and attaches itself to our aluminium fly wire and security screens. It is having a mildly corrosive action on the screens.
  - d) Using the outside washing line to dry washing makes the washing have a strange chemical smell. Clothes hung out on the line neither smell fresh nor feel soft.
5. When winds are strong (as they often are in the afternoon) there is a strong sulfur smell.
6. We note Mr Logan's comments in the Legislative Assembly regarding Cockburn Cement's ability to continue operating its kilns for 60 minutes after its electrostatic precipitator trips. For the information of the committee, attached is a video recording of what happens inside the plant when the filter mechanism fails. The amount of dust escaping is obviously quite significant.