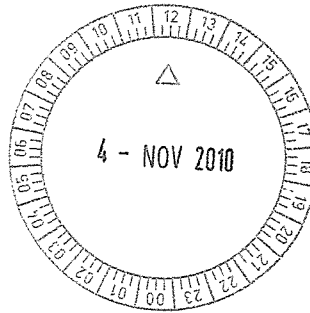


Ms Linda Omar, Committee Clerk, Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000

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PUBLIC

Tuesday, October 12, 2010



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to inform you of the impact Cockburn Cement Ltd has on my life and that of my family. I live in Beeliar, close to the Cockburn Cement factory. I moved here 4 years ago with my husband and our 6 children.

Moving into our dream home and being so close to the ocean was a dream come true for us. That dream soon turned into a living nightmare.

Our house, our cars, our patio, our children toys and our pets are constantly covered in a thick white dust. When we moved here, our car had just been re-spray painted. Within 2 years of being parked outside at night and constantly covered in cement lime and dust, the paint eroded, started to fade and peel off. Initial complaints to Cockburn Cement had them provide car wash vouchers, but when the car wash failed to remove the film of dust, we were told to clean the car windows with a kitchen scourer! If the dust that falls on our cars can take the paint off- WHAT IS IT DOING TO OUR LUNGS? Cockburn Cement now provides a caustic chemical cleaner which is the only way to remove the residue.

I cannot use my washing line to dry our clothes and linen, because they get covered in cement dust and lime. My children can't play outside for long because they get sores up their noses and watery eyes. Since moving here, 2 of my children have regular nose bleeds for no apparent reason and 3 of my children have developed asthma. The local primary school (South Coogee) is in close proximity to the plant and I am concerned for the health of all the children. I truly believe that the levels of emissions we are breathing are going to have a profound effect on our health in the future; much like asbestosis took years to realize.

In the last few years, the dust and odor has become unbearable. I am so concerned about the health implications of living here; I want to move to a cleaner area. Even though the government tells us that it is safe to live here, I don't believe that.

On a daily basis we can smell chemicals in the air.

The residents of Beeliar are sick of begging the government to help us. We are sick of living like this. What is it going to take for the government to stand up and take action? We can't wait any longer.


(Kind Regards
Erin Thomson