



COCKBURN CEMENT

Answering your questions about Munster plant operations

Cockburn Cement has operated in Munster for more than 60 years, providing Western Australia with the cement and lime needed to build our homes, our infrastructure and our industry.

Over the years, with more people living on the former farmland areas adjacent to the industrial precinct, we have received more questions about our emissions and whether they could have an impact on health. We appreciate and understand residents' interest in this topic and we are happy to provide information or point people to the relevant information sources.

Rigorous studies have been conducted by local health authorities, which concluded that there are no identifiable patterns of health problems in the communities around the Munster plant:

- There has been no pattern of health problems identified amongst the many thousands of people who have worked at the Munster plant or who have lived nearby. There is no pattern of either a type of illness or illness in a specific geographic area that is considered to indicate health related concerns about the Munster plant operations.
- This conclusion has been drawn from major health studies carried out by the WA Department of Health (2010) and Telethon Kids Institute (2012), which also involved local GPs and their health records.
- Since the 2012 study, emissions from the Munster plant have been reduced significantly as there is no clinker manufacturing at the site, baghouse filters have been installed on the lime kilns, and we are continually making other upgrades as part of our environmental improvement process.

Cockburn Cement complies with strict emission limits to ensure health and environmental protection:

- All of the emissions from the Munster plant are a long way below the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) limits. The NEPM limits are set by the Federal Government to ensure that air emissions do not have an impact on people's health.
- The Munster plant's emissions are also regulated by the WA Department of Environment and Water Regulation (DWER).
- There are multiple air quality and dust monitoring stations around the site and nearby in the residential community. Additionally, the Kwinana Industries Council (KIC) and DWER have monitoring stations. Data from these monitoring stations show that air standards in the local area are at a high standard and better than many other areas of Perth.

Lime production is a relatively simple process and is not comparable to coal fired power generation:

- The Munster plant converts naturally occurring shellsand (a type of limestone) to quicklime by heating it to a high temperature using a combination of gas and coal.
- In order to make high quality lime, Cockburn Cement uses low sulphur coal and no local ground water is directly used in the process, thereby minimising the introduction of sulphur.
- Sulphur is absorbed into the lime during its production, further limiting sulphur emissions.

The Munster plant has a low dust output:

- Dust emissions from the site have significantly reduced and are many times below NEPM standard health limits. This is because baghouse filters have been installed on the lime kilns, there is no clinker production at the site, and there are good controls in place over our general site activities, including vehicle movements. The dust emissions from our lime kilns can be viewed in real time at www.cockburncementcommunity.com.au

Odour identification and control activities are continuing:

- We receive reports from local residents of intermittent odour coming from our plant and adjacent industrial area. We have spent years seeking to establish the source of odour from our plant and we are continuing a number of investigations and activities to control and reduce the odour we identify. Odours detected in the community that emanate from the Munster plant are not toxic.

Cockburn Cement is committed to continually improving every part of our operations and reducing our environmental impact.

For more information about the points on this sheet, plus links to other websites, please visit www.cockburncementcommunity.com.au/environment/fact-sheets/

Further information on air quality can be found at www.dwer.wa.gov.au and www.kic.org.au

If you experience a dust or odour event, then please inform us via our hotline and complaints process.

Contact Us

Community Feedback Hotline: 1800 156 826

Email: community@cockburncement.com.au