



22 February 2019

Media Statement

Volunteers wanted to monitor odour and dust in Cockburn

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) is calling for community volunteers to assist investigations into ongoing odour and dust in the Cockburn area.

Under the Community Odour and Dust Monitoring Program, volunteers are needed to report odour or dust when they are experienced or witnessed, as well as attend regular briefings.

Residents from the monitored area—bounded by Stock Road in the West, Beeliar Drive in the North, Fanstone and Fancote Avenues in the South and Kogolup Lake in the East—will be receiving invitations in the post this weekend, to attend an initial briefing in early March.

“We encourage residents from this area to attend this briefing and register as a volunteer, as it will go a long way in helping us build a picture of the current state of odour and dust in the area, including likely sources and their impacts,” said DWER Director General Mike Rowe.

“We’re very aware that dust and odour issues are impacting community members, so it is expected this plan will enhance our understanding of what is actually occurring and whether we need to change how we regulate industrial premises in the area.”

The community program is one of four programs that will run until May under DWER’s new Cockburn Area Air Monitoring Plan that begins today.

The plan involves DWER officers patrolling the area to identify any odour impacts and sources, while a Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) unit and particle monitors have been installed to help pinpoint where dust is being generated and its path through the air.

Similar to DWER’s previous LiDAR programs at Cape Lambert, Port Hedland and Mandogalup, the LiDAR and particle monitor recordings will be live-streamed on the Department’s website from today.

DWER is also in the process of selecting appropriate locations across the area to collect dust on sampling units for analysis to determine any sources.

“By combining our community volunteers program with our odour patrols, as well as LiDAR monitoring and dust sampling, we’re confident this plan will help us better understand and resolve odour and dust impacts in the area,” said Mr Rowe.

“We will inform the public of any significant regulatory or other action that we take in response to the Plan.”

To express your interest as a volunteer for the Community Odour and Dust Monitoring Program, visit www.dwer.wa.gov.au/EOI-CODMP

For more information, or to view the live LiDAR feed, please visit www.dwer.wa.gov.au/CAAMP

To report odour or dust pollution incidents, please call the Pollution Watch Hotline on 1300 784 782 or visit www.der.wa.gov.au/your-environment/reporting-pollution.

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