

# Environmental pollution could cost company \$625,000



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## Environmental

This case highlights the extent of how an incidental practice can impact the environment and the company is held liable for any breach.

A large cement works has been charged with causing pollution and breaking conditions of its licence. It allegedly caused emissions of lime kiln dust which escaped their facility in Perth's southern suburbs and affected the environment and nearby residents.

A letter to Environment Minister highlighted numerous inquiries about the cement works, ranging from smells in the air and increased levels of dust in the area.

The Department of Environment and Conservation alleges the company impacted local environment and residents by releasing lime dust from one of its kilns.

The company is also accused with failing to dispose of its lime kiln dust in a wet state, which is a requirement of the company's environmental licence.

This demonstrates the quick actions being taken by the Department of Environment and Conservation to hold companies accountable for negative environmental impact or damage without going through lengthy and costly legal proceedings.

### Facts:

- The cement works is one of Australia's largest producers of lime and cement.
- The Department of Environment and Conservation takes environmental protection seriously and will not tolerate companies causing needless damage to the environment.
- The Plant in Munster received criticism for allegedly violating local environmental codes.
- Maximum penalty for the pollution charge is \$500,000 and a further \$125,000 for contravening a licence condition.
- At this stage the long term impact on the environment is unknown and could result in further cost implications.

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