

# Conservation of Rockingham Environment (CORE)

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Communities & Industries Forum

# *Conservation of Rockingham Environment (CORE)*

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## **HISTORY**

CORE (Conservation of Rockingham Environment) was originally started sometime in the early 80's. We are unsure of the exact date.

In 1990 CORKE (Conservation of Rockingham and Kwinana Environment) was formed when some of the Kwinana residents who had been fighting the Kwinana Industrial Area (KIA) had lost their will to fight any longer.

Dot Hesse and a few others would not give up the fight and anyone who knew Dot would know she would never give up, so that is how the 'K' came into the acronym.

This was the time of the attempt to build a Steel Mill on IP14. This fight was long but in the end it was won!

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### **A NEW BEGINNING**

CORKE was restarted in 2000 by my wife Annette and myself.

At the time it was suggested, by some of the original members, that it should include Kwinana – as this is the main area that includes the industrial strip. Some of the members are still active, sadly some have passed on and others have left the area.

The reason we started the group was that Rockingham had no voice in decision making or processes being implemented. The only group in our area was North Rockingham Noise.

It was put to the vote in 2001 to go back to CORE as Kwinana had two groups doing great things for Kwinana yet Rockingham was never given a mention for our contribution.

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### **CORE – active & passionate**

At the beginning we would attend all meetings possible just to listen and learn, as well as doing many hours of research.

Over the years we have changed the way we approach issues at hand.

We've had some great outcomes and some that are like 'hitting your head on a brick wall'. But it's just made us stronger in our fight.

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## **ISSUES – Cockburn Sound**

Cockburn Sound is one area that has my passion.

Through the Cockburn Sound Management Council (CSMC) some areas have dramatically improved and continues to do so. But more money is needed from Government for things to be at a standard they should be.

It's been said the reason the Sound Report Cards look so good is that the monitoring sites have been moved. Some have and new ones have been identified.

This is a progression of information collected with corresponding data from other areas unaffected by activities in Cockburn Sound. ie. Warnbro Sound. This in no way detracts from Cockburn Sound data, it in fact validates and enhances data collection.

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### **ISSUES – Noise**

Noise has been one major problem for many years and we know the Kwinana Industrial Area was responsible for most of it.

Yet now it has reduced to a point where we no longer get phone calls at all hours complaining of extreme noise.

I am not by any means saying the problems have gone as we still receive calls on occasions.

There are two companies that are not in compliance which we will continue to keep on at.

I am an active member of the Noise Reference Group, comprising of representatives from community, industry, local & State government.

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### **ISSUES – Air Quality**

This is an area that has been worked on for years and is one of the 'head butting' area.

Until Government starts acting in the interests of communities nothing will change. That being said it just makes us more determined to fight for the right of future generations.

I am a member of the Kwinana Air Shed Advisory Group (KASAG) and also the Kwinana Children's Respiratory Health Study Group.

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### **FUTURE ISSUES FOR CORE**

What we have to watch out for now is:

- The Rockingham Council attempting to encroach on the buffer zone for a housing development.
- Live export from James Point – we will work hard to prevent this.
- Lead carbonate export in all probability will end up in Kwinana
- Mangles Bay canal system – compliments of LandCorp and Cedar Woods.
- IP14 – also compliments of LandCorp

Plus other ongoing issues.

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### **CONCLUSION**

We have many areas to keep an eye on but we aren't scientists, we will be the first to admit that. So we rely on those qualified and we research for the answers we require.

CORE has been called many things, eg. stirrers, political activists, tree huggers – just to mention a few.

CORE will continue to work closely with the City of Rockingham and local industry as we have done for many years. We will also continue to participate in forums like this – the CIF is an important forum for us.

We are asked regularly if we think we can make a difference. The answer is YES – we can only try.

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**QUESTIONS?**

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