

The Environment is Industry's Future.

Industry in Kwinana has come to realise its future depends on accepting full responsibility for its place in the community and establishing a minimal impact on the environment.

Over the last 10 years there has been a significant improvement in the environment of the Kwinana Industrial Area.

Studies have shown the level of noise and air emissions have decreased and the water quality in Cockburn Sound has improved.

In its latest report, Cockburn Sound Management Council acknowledged this change:

"Between the 1950s and 1980s the environment and shores of Cockburn Sound underwent massive changes as industrial development grew rapidly," it said.

"During that time large tracts of sea grass meadows were lost, nutrient and contaminant levels in the water increased, and water circulation patterns were altered.

"However, following large-scale improvements in industrial practices, the system began to improve throughout the 1990s.

"In the context of the scale of past degradation, and increasing use and pressure, residential and recreational, as well as industrial, it is gratifying to see that the Sound has now improved to the point that it is in reasonably good health, a generally high standard of water quality."

Joint ventures between industrial neighbours have also worked to improve the environment, said Kwinana Industries Council director Chris Oughton.

"Instead of BP just flaring waste gases from the refining processes, they are burnt to provide heat to make steam to turn generators to make power," he said.

"One company's waste is another's raw material.

"CSBP's waste CO₂ gas is being used to neutralize Alcoa's caustic residue of their bauxite refining process.

"This is locking up some 60,000 tonnes of CO₂ a year and turning the residue into earth suitable for greenery re-vegetation."

"If industrial neighbours can learn to work together, perhaps it's time for neighbours in the street to work the same way by combining composts and saving water together.