



Two-way talks plea

By **DAVID JOHNS**

KWINANA Industries Council has called for the community to help establish “an environment of constructive communication” in the wake of complaints about its information services.

KIC director Chris Oughton hit back on Tuesday at criticism levelled towards the council during the previous Communities and Industries Forum held in June.

Kwinana Progress Association president Steve Hesse said at that meeting community members had, “lost faith in all industry”, and said they were not being informed when there was a matter of significance.

At the meeting, he asked questions without notice about two incidents involving noise and pollution levels that had occurred on the industrial strip – a flare-up a few days before the meeting at Wesfarmers LPG, and the commissioning of a new plant at the NewGen Power Station.

Mr Oughton said questions about the incidents were given without notice and, had notice been given, representatives from both companies would have been available to answer them.

“The KIC considers that communication needs to be a two way process for it to be successful, he said.

“Asking two questions without notice when notice could have been given seems more about setting up a failed communication environment than a constructive communication environment.”

Mr Oughton said no contact had been made with the KIC, and he was told only one anonymous phone call was made to the Department of Environment and Conservation complaints line about the issue.

Mr Hesse said he disputed the fact only one anonymous complaint had been made, saying he called the DEC himself and he did not decline to give his name.

A spokesman for the KIC clarified there had been one call registered formerly on the department’s complaints hotline.

“When asked a question, industry has proven that it will answer and will honestly seek to provide the best possible information it has to hand,” Mr Oughton said.

“No contact was made with KIC asking about the incidents. Had this occurred, we would have provided the information.”