

Date

December 2009

Issue

Kwinana Air Quality Buffer

KIC Position

- KIC believes that a buffer zone around industry should be delineated as a separate zone within Local Government town planning schemes. Anything less makes the buffer zone susceptible to incursion by inappropriate development, for example residential development.
- The concept of a buffer around industry has been integral to the Kwinana Industrial Area since it was formed in the 1950s
- Only industrial or commercial development that does not add to the need for a buffer or which does not add to the pressure on the residential interface of the buffer should be allowed to operate within the buffer.
- The purpose of the buffer should be extended well beyond its original purpose, sulphur dioxide management, and should be also applied to noise, dust, light, odour and risk.
- A buffer between industry and residences provides a separation distance between the two and is therefore important to the safety and well-being of all.

Background

Kwinana Industries Council has fought long and hard over many years to protect the air quality buffer from pressure to shrink its 'boundary' back towards industry.

Whilst the buffer boundary has been in place for some time, it has never technically had legal status, and whilst its original purpose has been informally expanded to include noise etc, there remains no legal status for this. This means that the outer edge of the buffer zone is susceptible to pressure from (for example) newly proposed residential development.

KIC has been a participant in the West Australian Planning Commission's (WAPC) Technical Working Group which considered issues for review in relation to the Kwinana air quality buffer.

The WAPC is to be commended for the production of the paper which has involved input from other government departments including DEC, DSD (previously DoIR) and the Department of Planning (previously DPI), as well as industry and local government stakeholders.

A position paper has been produced by the WAPC which sets out nine recommendations for modifications to the Kwinana air quality buffer and gives some background to the issues involved.

The full position paper from the WAPC can be downloaded from <http://www.wapc.wa.gov.au/Publications/1760.aspx>

The paper is the culmination of work that commenced in 2002, which originally came out of issues about the buffer identified when the Fremantle-Rockingham Industrial Area regional Strategy (FRIARS) in 1999.

It was the FRIARS report which ultimately resulted in the removal of the Hope Valley and Wattleup townsites to remove residential development from within the buffer and led to the creation of what is now known as Latitude 32.

The Department of Planning has recently released the State Industrial Buffer Policy for review. KIC has responded to this seeking greater legal status for the K14 buffer zone. The Department's document can be downloaded from:

<http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/Plans+and+policies/Public+comment/1943.aspx>

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