



Industry taking environmental steps

INDUSTRY in Kwinana has come a long way in the past few decades, having been a staple feature of the town for 50 years and generating thousands of jobs.

During the past 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 has decreased and the water quality of 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



Alcoa is part of the Kwinana Industrial area



throughout the 1990s.

“It is gratifying to see that the Sound has now improved to the point that it is in reasonably good health, having 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 said.

“Instead of BP just flaring waste gases from the refining processes, they are burnt to provide heat to make steam, turning generators and making power,” he said.

“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.”

Despite there being more industries creating more products in the Kwinana industrial area, the overall level of regulated noise has reduced, according to a study carried out by Herring Storer Acoustics.

This shows that, across the area, the industries of Kwinana have been actively implementing noise control strategies which have worked to reduce noise emissions.

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