



Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Youth Affairs

Our Ref: CTS 02831/22
Your Ref: A884881

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21 July 2022

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 2022 enclosing a copy of Parliamentary Petition No. 3733-22 concerning air quality in Ipswich.

I understand these matters are related to the industrial activities occurring within the Swanbank Area and particularly their impacts to air quality and odour. These concerns have often been raised in relation to activities such as landfilling and composting. I take the concerns of the Ipswich residents seriously and I can advise that the Department of Environment and Science (the department) has been taking action.

The department has been monitoring and responding to public notifications about the activities in this area. This has included several investigations which have resulted in enforcement action being taken by the department to ensure those companies responsible are accountable and comply with their environmental obligations.

Since the flooding event earlier this year, one company in particular has accumulated a large amount of water onsite which has been the cause of significant odour nuisance in the adjacent residential areas. The department has taken action requiring the company to reduce and treat the water and continues to monitor the company to make sure it fulfils its environmental obligations.

The department is working with Queensland Health and the Ipswich community to monitor air quality, review results and assess potential risks to human health. To date, the levels measured in the community have not exceeded the health standards.

Decisions associated with land use are not made by the department. However, the department has a role in providing the environmental approval for the activity that is consistent with that land use. It is very unfortunate when different land uses are in conflict. I can assure you that the department has and will continue to deliver compliance strategies to ensure industry comply with their environmental approvals.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Meaghan Scanlon MP
Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Youth Affairs