

# ODOUR ABATEMENT TASKFORCE

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

*This community newsletter provides updates from the Department of Environment and Science (DES) about the management of odour and other environmental nuisance in and around the Swanbank industrial area.*

## November update

The Odour Abatement Taskforce has been working hard since its establishment by the Queensland Government in July 2018 to investigate and respond to community reports from around Swanbank. Since then, the Taskforce has:

- received 577 community reports
- conducted 33 planned and 42 unplanned site inspections
- actioned 387 community reports via field response
- attended 18 community events
- met with a number of community group representatives to discuss odour nuisance, and
- regularly updated the community via social media, emails, the web and face-to-face engagement.

---

## Community engagement

From Monday 10 September to Friday 14 September, the taskforce's community engagement team hit the streets of Ipswich to talk everything odour. The team visited shopping centres and parks around Swanbank, at locations in Booval, Orion, Dinmore, Flinders View, Raceview and Riverview.



## Like to see the Odourbusters in your area? Have an upcoming community event?

Contact the Odour Abatement Taskforce community engagement team via [email \(OdourTaskforce@des.qld.gov.au\)](mailto:OdourTaskforce@des.qld.gov.au).

---

## Odour logs



The department uses odour logs, submitted by members of the community, to collect key information and track odour nuisance. Odour logs are helpful in identifying areas for environmental officers to monitor or investigate and may be used as evidence for prosecution or regulatory action.

The Odourbusters have been using odour logs to investigate odour nuisance in and around Swanbank, which has helped to develop a clearer picture of odour being experienced in surrounding suburbs. Odour logs can be completed at home, work or other frequented locations to track the time, location, intensity and weather conditions when odour is present.

Download an odour log today and once filled out:

- drop off to the Redbank Plains Shopfront (163 Alawoona Street, Redbank Plains)
- email us your completed odour log [pollutionhotline@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:pollutionhotline@des.qld.gov.au)
- contact us to organise collection from your home by one of our field officers

Remember to submit your logs ASAP after completion. This means our officers can investigate the potential odour source whilst it's still occurring!

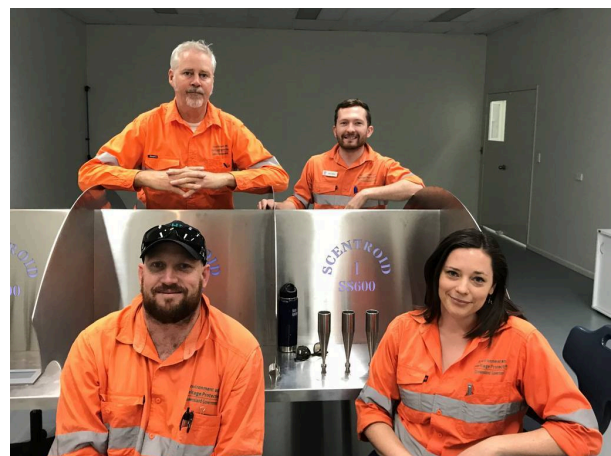
[Download the odour log template here](#)

---

## Field officer nose calibration

Our field officers have a toolkit of expert monitoring equipment to help track and monitor odour nuisance in and around Swanbank. **The best equipment to test for odour offensiveness? Their noses!**

Officers attended an olfactory laboratory in Brisbane on three non-consecutive days to earn their official nose calibration accreditation.



## So what is involved in getting your nose calibrated?

Officers' noses are calibrated using a Dynamic Olfactometer, in this case, the Scentroid SS600! Officers had to sit at individual workstations with three chambers in front of them. Air was pushed

through these chambers, one of which contained a sample odour used as the standard for nose calibration, and officers had to identify which chamber contained the sample.

### What does having an accredited nose calibration mean?

Once their noses are calibrated, officers can identify where their nose sits on the sensory bell curve (from hyper-sensitive to anosmic, or no sense of smell at all). So when an odourbuster completes an odour assessment in the field, we know whether they are likely to experience the odour in more or less the same way as the general population.

Officers that pass their nose calibration can also form part of a dynamic olfactometry panel, where samples collected from odourous sites are passed through the olfactometer, to the calibrated noses of the panel, who are then able to characterise the strength of the odour in terms of “odour units”.

[Find out more >](#)

---

## Community reports

Community reports help our officers respond to odour nuisances as they are occurring. This means we can monitor and collect evidence in real time. Thank you to everyone who has placed community reports to date!

Remember, to place a report:

- come and chat to the team at the shopfront (163 Alawoona Street, Redbank Plains)
- call 1300 130 372 (Option 3) and report over the phone 24/7
- complete an ONLINE odour nuisance report [odourreporting.des.qld.gov.au/](http://odourreporting.des.qld.gov.au/)

Total Reports Received

577

For more information, or to view the full dashboard (updated weekly), visit the Odourbusters website [www.qld.gov.au/odourbusters](http://www.qld.gov.au/odourbusters).

**Odour Abatement Taskforce**