

ODOUR ABATEMENT TASKFORCE

This 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.

Taskforce takes targeted enforcement action against key sites

As a result of analysing more than 10,000 community reports, ongoing investigations and undertaking proactive odour surveys, the taskforce has identified the key odour-generating sites in the area.

Intensified, targeted enforcement action is now being undertaken at those sites that have been found to be in breach of their environmental obligations.

Previous enforcement actions undertaken in relation to these sites have included: formal warnings; statutory notices requiring identification and remedy of odour sources and causes; and fines.

Despite these actions, and ongoing education, these operators have continued to breach the conditions of their environmental authority.

The taskforce will continue to work closely with these sites to bring them in line with their licence conditions through a dedicated program of regular monitoring, inspections and enforcement responses.

Continued breaches may result in more serious enforcement actions including a Transitional Environmental Program (a legally binding program used for sites that require long-term changes and includes specific objectives to reduce environmental harm to the appropriate environmental standard); an Environmental Protection Order (a statutory notice requiring a person/company to undertake specific actions to rectify a risk or prevent further harm); and/or prosecution which involves larger fine amounts and possible jail time.

Composting industry regulation and reform

Odour issues are complex and finding the right solution through implementation of best practice control measures takes time.

The Department of Environment and Science is working closely with those industries that create odour issues, such as the composting industry, to implement long-term solutions to prevent and/or reduce ongoing odour issues.

As part of a review of current industry regulation and best practice, the department consulted with the waste industry to develop updated model operating conditions and best practice guidance for composting.

- View the new model operating conditions for composting: [Model operating conditions ERA 53—Compost and soil conditioner manufacturing 200 t per year \(des.qld.gov.au\)](#)
- View the new best practice guideline for composting: [Guideline—Prevention of fires in waste stockpiles ESR/2020/5409 \(des.qld.gov.au\)](#)

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- Talk to us at one of our community engagement events held in the suburbs surrounding the Swanbank Industrial Area.

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