

## Swanbank and New Chum odour update

### Community drop-in session

The department will be hosting a community drop-in session at Redbank Plains Community Centre from 5:30pm - 7:30pm on Thursday 30 November 2023.

The sessions are designed to give the community the opportunity to drop in at a time that suits them and speak with our officers one-on-one about our compliance activities and investigations into the current odour issues.

For further information about this session, please email [engagement@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:engagement@des.qld.gov.au).

### Witness Statements

As part of our ongoing investigation into odour concerns in the Swanbank area, investigators from the Department of Environment and Science are currently working with community members to prepare witness statements about their observations and experiences with odour.

Only those community members who reported odour during specified periods have been contacted.

These statements may be used in future court action.

### Recent enforcement action

Following enhanced compliance efforts, the Department of Environment and Science recently issued three penalty infringement notices (PINs) to a Swanbank company for multiple breaches of their environmental obligations.

Each PIN equals \$15,480, totalling over \$45,000.

The PINs were issued to the company on 30 October 2023 for contravening a condition of an environmental authority and conducting certain activities without being authorised.

Our investigations into future potential breaches in the Swanbank area, including ongoing odour issues, are continuing.

As the environmental regulator, DES takes environmental offences seriously and will continue to take strong enforcement action, including court action, against any operator who is found to be wilfully breaking the law.

Separately, earlier this month, the Planning and Environment Court dismissed an application by DES to strike out an appeal by a Swanbank company against DES' refusal to approve an amendment to its transitional environment program.

DES remains committed to using all options available under the legislation to address ongoing odour issues for the local community.

[Find out more about compliance and enforcement](#)

### **Ipswich waste operator compliance surge**

The department has commenced a targeted operation to inspect sites across Ipswich that manage waste or have a high dust and odour generating potential. This includes around 55 sites currently with the potential to conduct further inspections.

Appropriate enforcement action will be taken against operators found to be doing the wrong thing.

### **New and improved web content**

We are working to upgrade our Swanbank odour website information to offer a more comprehensive and user-friendly experience for affected residents.

These improvements will provide users with up-to-date information on the current state of the issue and easier access to essential information and resources.

We are committed to keeping the community well-informed and these improvements are part of our dedication to providing the community with accurate, timely and easily accessible information. The website will continue to be regularly updated with fresh content, comprehensive resources and FAQs.

Further advice will be provided when these updates go live.

## **Reminder from Queensland Health**

Queensland Health recognises odours can cause physical symptoms and can impact people's wellbeing.

Anyone experiencing symptoms are encouraged to visit their GP, who are in the best position to assess symptoms and health concerns and provide medical advice.

Residents can also call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) 24/7 for confidential advice from a registered nurse.

[Find out more](#)

## **Update on school air sampling program**

Air sampling canisters have been offered to 10 public and private schools and early childhood educational facilities after community members raised concerns about children being exposed to odour.

Two samples have been collected and are currently being analysed at Queensland Health laboratories, and DES is awaiting the results.

To date, analysed results from samples provided by residents supplied with canisters have been below health guideline values.

[Find out more about air sampling cannisters](#)

We are dedicated to working together to address concerns and create a safer environment for our community. Your participation and feedback are greatly valued.

Please encourage other residents to [subscribe to this newsletter](#) for updates and information on upcoming community drop-ins.



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