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LATEST NEWS

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BIGGEST POLLUTER IN COCKBURN

The latest pollution statistics for the financial year ending 30 June 2017 have recently been published on the National Pollution Inventory website.

It will be no great surprise that Cockburn Cement Limited (CCL) is the hands-down winner of the prize for biggest polluter in Cockburn. In a range of 25 toxic substances produced from all sources in Cockburn, it is either the sole producer or the biggest producer of 17 of these 25 toxins.

It is:

- the only producer of the heavy metals beryllium (1.2 kg a year), chromium III (6.4 kg) and fluorine compounds (480 kg)
- the only producer of polychlorinated dioxins and furans (100,000 micrograms)
- the only producer of hydrochloric acid (23,000 kg)
- the biggest producer of heavy metals - arsenic (96%), cadmium (57.5% of total), chromium VI compounds (75%), cobalt (64%), copper (83.65%), manganese (93.75%), mercury (90%), nickel and compounds (95.6%) and zinc (92%)
- the biggest producer of oxides of nitrogen (49%), particulates 2.5µm (61.3%) and sulphur dioxide (73.7%)
- The second biggest producer of particulates 10µm (24%) after domestic solid fuel burning (home wood heaters) (40%)
- The second biggest producer of carbon monoxide (10.9%) after the hundreds of thousands of vehicles on Cockburn's roads (72.5%)
- The second biggest producer of chlorine (12.5%) after swimming pools (86.1%)

CCL also produced polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (2.4 kg) and volatile organic compounds (13,000 kg) which are not reported in the City of Cockburn statistics.

How long does CCL want to be the winner of polluter of the year?