

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.

Update on odour issues - September 2023

The Department of Environment and Science (department) has been actively investigating an increased number of odour nuisance reports received from community members in and around the Swanbank industrial area.

The department is also aware of continued media interest and community concern around the issue of odour in the area.

Investigations and compliance activities have included undertaking a number of field investigations at residences in Ripley, Eco-Ripley and Redbank Plains.

These investigations, along with information from community reports and weather monitoring technology, has identified that composting facilities located in the southern part of the Swanbank industrial area are significantly contributing to odour currently being experienced.

These facilities are now the target of increased proactive compliance activity by the department.

Compliance activities

In recent months, composting facilities regulated by the department and have been subject to increased targeted compliance inspection activities.

In particular, sites that use highly odorous wastes, have poor onsite management and water management processes are being closely examined.

Unannounced inspections

Departmental officers including investigators and technical experts conducted a series of unannounced inspections at a number of composting facilities to determine whether they were compliant with their environmental licence requirements.

The findings from these inspections—including drone aerial imagery and scientific analysis of water, waste and compost samples—will inform the department's next steps with regard to these operators including considering taking enforcement action for any non-compliance.

The department will continue to focus its compliance efforts on waste operators within the Swanbank industrial area and the department will consider taking the strongest possible enforcement action against any operator found to have been wilfully breaking the law.

Further investigations will be ongoing and any operator found to have been wilfully breaking the law will be subject to the strongest possible enforcement action.

Multi-day blitz

The department also undertook a two-day, multi-agency compliance blitz in the Swanbank area targeting waste transport operators to ensure they had the correct licences and permits and that the waste was only going to those facilities licensed to receive it.

Of the 65 waste transport vehicles intercepted, most were found to be compliant with their environmental obligations, however 10 warning letters were issued to those found to be non-compliant. Correspondence was also sent to more than 400 transport waste operators licensed by the department advising them to review their current practices to ensure compliance with their environmental obligations. The intelligence gathered during this operation will support ongoing compliance activities targeting waste transport operators that receive and process highly odorous waste.

Improvements to Online reporting form

The department's [online reporting form](#) has been expanded to allow for community reporting of all environmental nuisance issues—including noise, dust and heritage matters—in addition to odour.

Certain questions have been refined to capture more specific details (where available) and provide more accurate information to support our ongoing compliance activities.

When a report is submitted it is recorded directly into our systems which allows the department greater flexibility in being able to review and use the information for compliance purposes.

If you are experiencing odour issues please go to the [online form](#) to submit reports or phone the Pollution Hotline: 1300 130 372 (option 3).

Further information

- [Subscribe](#) to our newsletter to get the latest news and updates.
- Visit www.qld.gov.au/odourabatement



Queensland
Government

This email was sent by Compliance Support, Environmental Services and Regulation, Department of Environment and Science, Queensland Government to melanie.booker@des.qld.gov.au

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by
Vision⁶