

**Question on Notice
No. 218
Asked on 22 February 2007**

QUESTION:

MR WELLS asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

In order to maintain the confidence of my Narangba and Deception Bay constituents, and demonstrate the transparency of her department's processes—

Will she instruct that a Narangba or Deception Bay resident be invited to accompany her departmental officers on a routine audit of industrial pollution, involving inspection of Environmental Protection Agency monitoring functions at the Narangba Industrial Estate?

ANSWER:

The EPA would welcome the opportunity for an appropriate community representative to accompany Environmental Officers on a routine inspection of passive samplers and groundwater bores currently being monitored by the EPA.

The EPA has always demonstrated transparency at the Narangba Industrial Estate (the Estate), including dropping in on various residents when undertaking odour monitoring, as well as maintaining contact with complainants throughout its investigations. EPA officers regularly attend the Narangba Industrial Estate Reference Group meetings facilitated by the Caboolture Shire Council to update representative members of the Narangba and Deception Bay communities on the Agency's activities.

As with any activity that is regulated by the EPA, the primary role of the Agency with respect to the Narangba Industrial Estate is to ensure businesses operate within the boundaries of their development approvals. Conditions are placed on businesses to minimise impacts on the surrounding environment and community. It is the function of the EPA to ensure these conditions of operation are being complied with.

In the last 6 months, the EPA has completed a comprehensive site inspection of all the activities on the Estate for which it is the responsible regulator, with the exception of the two newly commissioned biodiesel manufacturing facilities.

These inspections have resulted in a number of Notices being issued relating to non-compliance by businesses on the Estate. The EPA is using the statutory tools available under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to require businesses to undertake actions to bring them into compliance with their development approvals or address other potential environmental issues on their sites.

The Environmental Protection Agency is currently conducting dust and water monitoring in relation to the impacts on and remediation of areas affected by the Binary fire. Sampling for these exercises is undertaken using passive sampler technologies and samples are sent away to an accredited laboratory for analysis.