



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMUNITY ENLISTED IN NEW RUTHERFORD ODOUR STUDY

The NSW Environment Protection Authority has commissioned a community based study as part of its continuing investigations into odours in the Rutherford area, following advice from the Rutherford Air Quality Liaison Committee.

Environment Minister Robyn Parker said the aim of the olfactometry study was to train and enlist the community to help detect and characterise odour types in the Rutherford area.

“Despite extensive investigations into odours in the Rutherford area we have not yet been able to identify a single source or pattern in the frequency or duration of odour emissions,” Ms Parker said.

“Involving the community’s noses has been identified as being an important step in determining which odours are considered most offensive by locals and in helping to undertake further odour sampling in the area.

“After consultation with the Rutherford Air Quality Liaison Committee, The Odour Unit - a company which specialises in odour detection, has been engaged to develop a study into the Rutherford odours involving local knowledge.

“The study will involve the establishment of a panel made up of community members who have regularly reported Rutherford odours to the EPA, industry representatives and a “control nose” – to provide a point of reference.

“Panel representatives will be presented with a variety of odours collected within the Rutherford area and asked to characterise and grade the odours.”

Ms Parker said odours were notoriously difficult to measure and pinpoint compared to other types of emissions, with weather playing a significant role in determining the extent of odour dispersion.

“This Government is committed to resolving the issue of odours in Rutherford. This is another step towards identifying and mitigating odours in the area,” Ms Parker said.

The results of the community study are expected to be carried out and completed by the end of April 2014.