



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 7 February 2013

EPA TO COMMISSION ODOUR SAMPLING AND MODELLING FOR RUTHERFORD

Environment Minister Robyn Parker and Maitland MP Robyn Parker announced today that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will commission odour sampling and modelling of the Rutherford Industrial Estate.

Ms Parker said the decision followed receipt of the finished Rutherford Odour Investigation Project report which was undertaken by independent odour experts last year.

“This report, endorsed by the Rutherford Air Quality Liaison Committee at its last meeting, recommends that comprehensive testing and odour sampling be undertaken on at least nine sites on the industrial estate,” Ms Parker said.

“The action follows a review of available odour sampling data in the Rutherford area by Todoroski Air Sciences last year. The review resulted in a report which will be made available to the public.

“The EPA has taken the advice on board and today began the process of advertising the tenders for odour sampling and modelling work, a program which is to begin as soon as possible. The EPA will also conduct further consultation with industry around sampling and funding models for the project.”

Ms Parker said that the NSW Government is committed to addressing residents’ concerns about potential odours near the Rutherford Industrial Estate.

“I made a promise to investigate this issue and that is exactly what is being undertaken,” Ms Parker said.

“The first step was to commission the independent odour report for the Rutherford area and to consider any knowledge gaps that we needed to address.

“Now that has been completed the experts have agreed that it is necessary to undertake odour sampling to determine exactly what odours are emanating from each premises.

“This information will then be fed into an odour modelling programme to identify any potential movement of odours and possible effects on nearby communities.”

Ms Parker said the EPA is committed to addressing community concerns and will keep residents informed via the Rutherford Air Quality Liaison Committee.

“The Committee has been involved in every step of this process,” Ms Parker said.

The Rutherford Odour Investigation Project report will be available on the EPA website here: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/rutherfordcttee/index.htm>

Residents are encouraged to report any offensive odours to the Environment Line on 131 555.

The Rutherford Air Quality Liaison Committee was established by the Environment Minister in 2011 to act as a conduit between the Government, the community and industry to investigate and address the odour issues at Rutherford.

Media contact: Steve Warnock (0428 968 499)