

Adelaide Brighton Cement (ABC)



Timeline information

ABC has operated a cement works adjacent to the Port River at Birkenhead for over 100 years. It is in close proximity to the community, and main concerns have historically related to noise and dust (amenity).

1995 – Licensed by the EPA under the *Environment Protection Act 1993*

1996 – As a condition of the licence, an environment improvement program (EIP) was approved by the EPA to reduce off-site impacts from ABC's operations.

2002 – A second EIP was approved by the EPA which was more comprehensive, covering air emission, noise and vibration, and waste management.

2005 – The Adelaide Brighton Cement Community Liaison Group (ABC-CLG) (the forum) was created. The forum was developed for ongoing communication and community involvement in environment management and improvements to be made. This continues today, and the EPA has been involved for over 10 years.

2006–07 – The EPA issued a new Licence with more stringent and comprehensive conditions. An exemption from the *Air Quality Policy (1994)* was also granted which related to specific operating conditions.

2008 – Third EIP developed (term 2008–11) with ABC-CLG involvement. This EIP covered the introduction and management of alternative fuels and raw materials. This was approved by the EPA and compliance with this EIP became a condition of the licence.

January–November 2011 – ABC completed improvements to the site in accordance with the third EIP, including the establishment of a wetlands area for the treatment of all stormwater from the site, and reductions to amenity dust impacts and other dust reduction measures. Reduction of the visual impacts from the site also occurred with the installation of shade cloth surrounding the boundaries of the site and the development of a site greening and landscaping project. Emission impact reduction projects and significant noise and vibration impact projects were also completed including extensive noise abatement work.

December 2011 – Developed the fourth EIP for the site. This included actions to address community concerns in consultation with the ABC-CLG. This EIP was the first to include improved community communication actions such as development of a community webpage and make the production of a regular community newsletter. The development of a noise reduction plan that considered and addressed the impacts from all facilities on site. This was approved by the EPA and incorporated into the conditions of the licence.

2012 – All ABC expansion works are completed and environmental improvement projects listed in the fourth EIP are continued. Installation of 2 further dust monitoring stations on site, now 6 in total.

End 2012–mid-2013 – Noted increase in community complaints regarding dust emissions from stacks and slag dryer. The EPA issued a formal warning for a stack emission exceedance of the exemption limit on 27 February 2013. As an outcome, ABC to installed improved failsafe on cooling spray system and improve all maintenance procedures.

2014–15 – Actions progressed in accordance fourth EIP during this period, including the completion of major dust emission reduction works, also including a focus on dust emissions from open areas. Noise reduction works also continued, and a noise study undertaken to determine and prioritise major abatement works from the site.

December 2015 – The EPA undertook PM₁₀ monitoring around the area, and results demonstrated there has been a reduction in emissions from the ABC site, and that the emissions improvement project has been effective.

Latest (current) fifth EIP developed with ABC–CLG input. Sub-committee of the CLG was elected to ensure all items on the new EIP were understood and address community concerns. This was approved by the EPA and subsequently became part of the current licence.

2016 – Actions progressed in accordance with the approved EIP. This has included work on noise reductions, reducing dust emissions, studies of process improvements and a vibration survey in the adjacent community.