

Community Survey Results – April 21, 2010

A recent community survey conducted on behalf of OneSteel and the Environment Consultation Group (ECG) has found that dust is still perceived as an issue by local residents.

The survey found a high percentage of residents still see red dust as having an impact, followed by black dust and general air emissions. Other areas of concern included health impacts and train noise, however these were to a lesser extent.

The survey covered the area bordered by Essington Lewis Avenue, Elliott Street and Delprat Terrace to determine east end impacts, as well as McBryde Terrace and Lacey Street to gauge impacts from the rail line. Of the 300-plus houses contained within these areas, there were 130 responses to the survey.

According to ECG Chair Eddie Hughes, the survey aimed to assist in understanding the community's current and future concerns and to allow the ECG to work with OneSteel in calibrating its focus areas.

"The ECG works with OneSteel to ensure any environmental concerns from the community are actively addressed," he said.

"This survey was an ideal way to ensure we are working with the company on the right issues and also to help us plan how we can further serve the community in the future.

"It showed us there is a high level of awareness of OneSteel's environmental impact on the community and that residents believe this impact is improving.

"OneSteel is generally seen as a good corporate citizen and as being critical to the Whyalla region."

OneSteel Manager Sustainability Angie Stokes said the survey would be used to help the company focus on areas that were a concern for the community.

"We want to make improvements in areas that will not only benefit OneSteel's environmental performance but also address the community's main concerns, so we look forward to continuing our work with the ECG to make this a reality," she said.

"The survey identified that residents would like to see us continue our focus on cleaning up the impacts from years of red dust deposition, reduce water usage, control impacts from trains and continue to work and consult with the local community.

"Residents would also like to see more information regarding our environmental improvements via flyers or articles in the Whyalla News."

For more information contact Eddie Hughes on 0447 745 471, or OneSteel Community Relations and Communications Manager Sean Kelly, on 8640 4206 or 0411 054 643.