

An Update on GILG

On Tuesday night approximately 50 people attended the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) free community Air Quality seminar held at CQUniversity. The seminar gave an insight into air testing, air shed modelling and the Clean and Healthy Air for Gladstone project. The night finished up with a lively Question and Answer time.

EYE ON INDUSTRY

By Kurt Heidecker
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Leadership Group



One concern raised was that the results of EPA air testing will be misleading as Industry has reduced production because of the Global downturn and this has reduced Industry's air emissions. The answer to this question has two parts. Firstly, Gladstone Industry production has not in fact been reduced but rather is at normal levels with some GILG members actually being ahead of their 2009 production targets.

Secondly, the EPA tracks production levels at each GILG site. So the results of community air testing can be matched to current production levels and this in turn will be factored into the EPA's Gladstone air shed model.

The GILG web site is due to be launched in the next two weeks and it will include a Frequently Asked Questions page. So if you have any questions like this one, please email me at ask@gilg.com.au and I will also publish the answer on our site.

I have spoken to a number of people who participated in the GILG air quality survey. Once again I would like to thank all of you who gave your time to answer these questions. The survey company is collating the responses and we expect to have the detailed results in the next week.

However, the survey's initial conclusions are that 68% of community members are concerned about the potential impact of industry on health, there is a general satisfaction that Industry is doing enough to protect human health and the environment but there are relatively high levels of dissatisfaction with Industry consultation, communications and responsiveness.

One of the ways that GILG plans to improve Industry's community consultation is through our Environmental Transparency Framework. This Framework contains a number of initiatives to improve the way Industry listens to and meets the needs of the Gladstone community. Before this Framework is put in place, GILG is talking to Gladstone people to make sure that it will be effective. So if you'd like to be involved or have any suggestions to help Industry improve in this area, please contact me at ask@gilg.com.au or use one of my contacts below.

I look forward to talking to you,
cheers for now, Kurt



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