

The dust is settling in grain dispute

OSBORNE

Ashleigh Pisani

THE amount of dust being emitted from an Osborne grain export company has been cut dramatically since it appeared in the Environment, Resources and Development Court last month, say local residents.

They have reported a big improvement in emissions from Semaphore Container Services since it was brought before the Environment, Resources and Development Court by Port Adelaide Council for allegedly breaching their 10pm operating curfew and failing to minimise dust.

A council spokeswoman said it would "escalate" any future complaints about dust through its increased powers to manage local nuisance issues which came into effect last July.

This includes the power to hand out abatement notices with fines of up to \$60,000 to businesses that fail to comply with a direction.

Under that new power, Port Adelaide Enfield Council told Semaphore Container Services in December to bituminise and use water-fogging machines to minimise the dust impact when containers are on the site. Local residents have complained of respiratory problems as a result of grain dust from the factory.

Sammy Aloisi said residents were quite happy for them to trade as long as there was not too much noise or dust.

"They have been putting in measures to control the dust and the last ship that was there it was significantly reduced so that was a good sign," Mr Aloisi said.

Hayley Forde said she had noticed an improvement.

"It's definitely not as bad as last year," Mrs Forde said. "For the last few months it has been great except for last week (when) I noticed the shipment came in. It (grain dust) is still travelling our way."