

# MEDIA STATEMENT



**Mike Nahan** MLA  
Member for Riverton

**Joe Francis** MLA  
Member for Jandakot

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## **Its Official: PR Perfume can't Hide the Smell**

Two new local Members of Parliament who took up the cause of a community group complaining about odours from the Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale are delighted that an official report published today proves that the smell does exist, is significant and widespread and that PR spin can't hide it anymore.

Dr Mike Nahan, Member for Riverton, commenting on a report by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), said that the its publication had vindicated the stance that he and Joe Francis (Member for Jandakot) had taken in support of long suffering residents in south Willetton and Leeming.

"For years the management of the South Metropolitan Regional Council's Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) has run a composting plant that periodically inflicts unbearable odours on nearby residents"

"Instead of recognising that it had a problem, the Plant's management has chosen to use public relations spin to mask the problem." said Dr Nahan.

"They can't hide anymore," Joe Francis said, "DEC's report, based on independent scientific monitoring, shows that the RRRC is the major source of odours in the area."

"The Report also says that the odours had offensive characteristics and intensities which have been annoying and a nuisance to people in the area." said Mr Francis

Dr Nahan said that while he was pleased that at long last the DEC had finally proved the smells did exist, they now had to be stopped, and quickly.

"I understand the Regulator, the Department of Environment and Conservation, has given the SMRC twenty one days to come up with a firm plan to fix the problem."

"My big concern is, then what?"

"The smell problem should have been fixed long ago. The RRRC has been operating since 2002. It has been shut down twice. The management has tried to fix the problem, but they haven't been successful. Indeed, in recent times they have been in denial that there is even a problem."

"The DEC has let the matter go on for far too long. Joe and I now call on the DEC to take firm action.'

"If the SMRC can't guarantee no smell at Christmas time, then the plant should be closed over the festive season."

"And to make sure that real progress is being made, the DEC should continue to monitor the odour regime around the plant using the scientific methodology described in their Report.'

"They should make the results publicly available on a regular basis."

“If the DEC does not have the resources to do the necessary monitoring, it should require the SMRC to provide the funds to pay for an independent consultant under the DEC’s supervision.”

“We think that the DEC should set up a consultative group with representatives of all stakeholders to help keep the remedial effort on track and to build confidence that the problem is, at long last, being addressed seriously.’

“Finally, we call on the SMRC to start acting like a good corporate citizen, accept that they have a real problem at the compost plant and begin to address it in good faith with utmost urgency,” he said

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