



13 November 2009

DEC Investigating SMRC Again for Odours

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said the Department of Environment and Conservation has yet again instigated an investigation into the SMRC's odours.

"As a corporation operating within our community, the SMRC has a terrible history. I have lost count of the number of times that the SMRC has been shut down or investigated by DEC for annoying odours and it is once again under investigation," said Dr Nahan.

"On 3 November, DEC received six complaints from householders regarding odour emissions from the SMRC. The DEC officers attended the SMRC on that evening and confirmed that unreasonable odour emissions were emanating from Biofilter 2, which had recently been refurbished. A further 12 residents lodged complaints over the next two days."

Dr Nahan said he had high hopes for the SMRC's new regional council headed by Chairman Tony Romano, but was concerned that this latest odour incident had occurred on their watch.

"The SMRC's community engagement and its risk management when problems occur is nothing short of appalling," said Dr Nahan.

"The SMRC recently sent a letter to nearby residents to let them know that work was being done on the biofilters and yet the letter included a wrong telephone number for the community to call if there was a problem."

"Then, when the Biofilter 2 problem came up and they were emitting this terrible stench on the nearby residents, the first thing the SMRC did was to send an email alerting its own stakeholders to the problem but leaving the community in the dark as to what was happening."

"These are basic business management issues that all corporations competently deal with on a regular basis and yet the SMRC constantly lets the community down."

"The SMRC is about to establish a Community Advisory Group to try to improve its public profile but that too is a diversion from the main issue. Despite extensive expenditure and numerous engineering changes the SMRC cannot stop the emission of its annoying and unpleasant odours."

"Until that is fixed the SMRC will continue to be the bane of the local community."

Dr Nahan encouraged householders to immediately call DEC's Emergency Pollution Response hotline on 1300 784 782 if they experience annoying odours and to register their complaint on the Canning Melville Community Odour Action Group's website at www.cmcoag.com.

Media Contact: Dr Mike Nahan 9457 1282 or 0412 911 969