



6 May 2010

## **Six New Odour Clauses for SMRC Licence**

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton welcomed news that the Department of Environment and Conservation has amended the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's licence to operate its Regional Resource Recovery Centre to include six new odour clauses.

"While I personally believe the new clauses are still not strong enough, I am pleased that they have now been included in the SMRC's new licence. Those clauses should have been in place years ago in the SMRC's first license to operate," said Dr Nahan.

"It seems incredible that it has taken years of complaints from the community over the emission of odours into their homes and the loss of amenity they have suffered to finally get the SMRC's licence amended."

"From experience, the local community knows that it is impossible for the SMRC to convert putrescible waste into compost without creating unpleasant and unwelcome odours. The problem is exacerbated because the plant is located far too close to residential homes. While other similar plants have extensive buffer zones, the SMRC does not."

Dr Nahan said he expected the SMRC to appeal the most important new clause under Odour Control, (Clause 16), which states, *The licensee shall ensure that odour emitted from the Premises does not unreasonably interfere with the health, welfare, convenience, comfort or amenity of any person who is not on the Premises.*

"This is an important new clause for the protection of the community and I urge the DEC not to allow any amendments to it," said Dr Nahan.

Dr Nahan said that despite the SMRC undertaking expensive remedial work to contain the odours onsite, the local community is still experiencing the stench in their homes on a regular basis.

"As a consequence of the ongoing odour problems, the local community has lost faith in the DEC as the regulator to hold the SMRC accountable for its actions. Many people have told me they don't bother to report breaches anymore because nothing is done about it," said Dr Nahan.

"However, I urge the community continue to report instances of odours because this information is vitally important to any the DEC investigations, especially now that the new clauses are in place."

"I commend the DEC for toughening the SMRC's licence conditions and call on it to now use its many powers to ensure that the local community is free of the unwanted odour emissions from the SMRC's waste facility once and for all.

Residents should contact DEC's Emergency Pollution Response hotline on 1300 784 782 if they experience annoying odours and also register their complaint on the Canning Melville Community Odour Action Group's website at [www.cmcoag.com](http://www.cmcoag.com).

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