



6 April 2011

SMRC Still Polluting The Local Community

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton called on the Department of the Environment to invoke the strict new provisions in the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's license to operate after the local community has endured two weeks of unreasonable odours from the Canning Vale plant.

"I have been informed that the Department for the Environment staff have been working at the SMRC over the last week or so to track down the cause of two distinct odours coming from the site," said Dr Nahan.

"One of the odours is from rotting green waste that has piled up and not been processed within the required period of 72 hours of delivery to the plant, and the other smell is a strong compost odour that DEC and the SMRC cannot find the source of within the system inside the processing shed."

"These odours are not acceptable. The SMRC's license says it shall ensure that odour emitted from its premises does not unreasonably interfere with the health, welfare, convenience, comfort or amenity of any person who is not on the premises. These recent odours are making it virtually impossible for nearby residents to live in their homes."

"Residents have told me that on the warm nights lately, they have had to turn off their evaporative air conditioners, close all the windows and swelter because of the smell around their homes."

Dr Nahan said that while DEC staff have been working with the SMRC to resolve the issues, DEC should not forget that it also has the important role of regulator as an environmental champion to protect the community.

"While it is true that odour complaints regarding the SMRC have lessened in recent months, there have still been 12 complaints in February, 19 in March and so far in April, there have been 15," said Dr Nahan.

"DEC simply must act on these environmental problems. It has the power under the SMRC's new license to act and I join the community in asking why it is not doing so."

"In the case of lead transporter Magellan Metals, lead has been detected and the DEC shut it down immediately – why not the SMRC?"

"Over its years of operation, the SMRC has continued to be a problem within the local community and despite DEC's ongoing assistance and expensive remedial work it is still a problem. It simply cannot be allowed to continue to operate while emitting offensive odours."

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