



9 September 2011

## **Its Official – The SMRC Still Stinks**

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton called on the Department of the Environment and Conservation to take immediate action against the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) after an extensive Community Odour Survey showed that its composting facility in Canning Vale continues to emit unacceptable odours into the community.

"This 14-week survey has now shown that of 332 validated odour log reports, 193 related to the SMRC's plant, that the SMRC's odours were detected 60 days out of 100 days by the volunteers and DEC officers involved, and that the odours are still triggering a high level of annoyance among the community," said Dr Nahan.

"The survey identified the presence of green waste odours and compost and fermented garbage odours affecting Willetton, Leeming and surrounding suburbs. Just how much more evidence does DEC need to realise that the community's complaints are valid?"

"Local residents and even businesses from the Canning Vale industrial area have known this for the eight years that the plant operated. They know that DEC has been working with the SMRC to try to stop the odours but the survey has clearly shown their remedial work has not been successful."

"DEC must put on its regulator hat now and defend the community against these repulsive odours from the SMRC's composting plant."

Dr Nahan said he was pleased that the comprehensive survey, which ran from January to April this year, was designed to develop a clear and objective picture of odours impacting these and surrounding suburbs, and to determine their sources.

"The survey results have forced DEC's Director of Environmental Regulation, Alan Sands, to publicly state that the survey program identified the SMRC's plant in Canning Vale is the main source of odours in the local area," said Dr Nahan.

"Alan Sands has attended numerous meetings in my office with the community and he has been well aware that the SMRC is the source of the unwanted odours. In response to the survey, he has announced yet another round of detailed investigations into the possible sources of these odours WITHIN the SMRC's plant but that is not good enough."

"DEC is complicit in this and they should stop stalling and take action. The people of Willetton, Leeming and the surrounding suburbs deserve more than just repulsive odours from the SMRC and ongoing platitudes from DEC."

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