



31 October 2011

## **SMRC Put On Short Notice**

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton, said the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Minister for the Environment have put the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council on notice with the issuing of a new short-term, tougher licence to operate.

"DEC has renewed the SMRC's lease but with more stringent conditions and only for a period of six months through to 31 March, 2012," said Dr Nahan.

"The Minister has made it clear that the SMRC is on notice and must substantially reduce odour emissions and complaints if it is to continue to operate beyond the terms of this new lease."

"On behalf of the community, particularly the local families, seniors and businesses that have been long affected by the odours from the SMRC, I thank the Minister and the DEC for their actions and look forward to them being implemented."

"Up until last year, a three-year licence renewal was standard for the SMRC. Last year, in response to continuing complaints the then Minister for the Environment only renewed it for one year and applied additional and more stringent conditions. Now Minister Marmion has tightened the licence arrangement further with a period of just six months and even tighter conditions," said Dr Nahan.

"While no one disputes that the SMRC plays an important role in the community in processing waste, they cannot be allowed to continue to pollute their neighbourhood."

Dr Nahan said the recent Community Odour Monitoring Program conducted by DEC had shown that of the 330 validated reports of odour in the test area over a 100-day period between January and April this year, 193 of them came from the SMRC's plant.

"I'm extremely pleased that the Minister has taken these appalling results into account and made it clear that the SMRC has to substantially reduce odour emissions and complaints within the six-month deadline," said Dr Nahan.

"I believe it is time for the Board of the SMRC and its remaining member council's look beyond the composting plant and investigate alternative new technologies that allow the recycling of waste without the imposition of excessive odours on the local community."

If anyone experiences annoying and unpleasant odours from the SMRC, I urge you to continue to report them as and when they occur to DEC's Emergency Pollution Response Hotline on 1300 784 782. Please also register your complaints on the Canning Melville Community Odour Action Group's website at [www.cmcoag.com](http://www.cmcoag.com)

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