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SMRC – Admission of guilt a long time coming

Dr Mike Nahan and Joe Francis, the Members for Riverton and Jandakot, have called for heads to roll at the South Metropolitan Regional Council.

Dr Nahan and Mr Francis believe the SMRC has been polluting - much to the local community's disgust - for more than six years.

The SMRC's Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) has failed to act to the standard of corporate responsibility expected in our society, which is particularly disturbing for a local government agency.

"The Chief Executive Officer, Stuart McAll and SMRC Chairman Doug Thompson should fall on their swords and stand down," Dr Nahan said.

"They have overseen a terrible period in the local community's history. It has taken years of persistent community complaints about the stench, a Department of Environment and Conservation inquiry, an Upper House Parliamentary Committee inquiry and now their own research for them to finally accept what residents have been saying for years - that the SMRC's waste operations continue to emit excessive odour pollution."

"At every step of the way, Stuart McAll and Doug Thompson have aggressively resisted any call from the community to recognise and address the pollution problem. Instead, they have stuck their head in the sand and ridiculed members of the community who complained," Mr Francis said.

"We believe it is now a credibility issue. We can't see any scope for solving the serious problems confronting the SMRC plant and regaining the trust of the community with those two men remaining in charge," Dr Nahan stated.

"Now that the SMRC has finally admitted they have a serious on-going pollution problem, they need to appoint a truly independent agency to monitor, detect and prevent emissions if they are ever to re-gain community respect," Mr Francis said.

"In addition to addressing its pollution problem, the SMRC facility is facing serious financial difficulties. It hasn't been financially viable for several years and its future is in serious question."

"The SMRC needs to make all of its reports available to the ratepayers of member councils, including its so-called toxicology report and its full financial results for the last three years so that there is true transparency and accountability for ratepayer's money", Dr Nahan concluded.

CONTACT: Dr Mike Nahan 9457 1282 or 0412 911 969
Joe Francis 0404 027 693