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SMRC Chairman Verifies CEO's Leap In Salary

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said a letter he has received from Southern Metropolitan Regional Council Chairman Tony Romano has verified that the SMRC's CEO did receive a huge salary increase in 2008.

"The letter confirms that the CEO's cash salary jumped from a band of \$130,000 - \$139,000 to a band of \$180,000 - \$189,000 over a 13 month period from June 2008. That is a huge increase that was hidden from the community either deliberately or because of the so-called typographical errors in the SMRC's audited Annual Reports," said Dr Nahan.

"If the community had known about it at that time there would have been an uproar."

"The new chairman says he wishes to put all this in the past and look to the future. I struggle to accept that because the SMRC's past record has been one full of promises which have failed to be realized and Mr Romano's brief period has been a continuation of this approach," said Dr Nahan.

"Over the last four months alone, I have had more than 100 complaints from members of the community about the odour that the SMRC is still emitting. The SMRC is subject to at least three significant pollution issues by the DEC. In actual fact, their track record is getting worse, not better."

"On 28 January, DEC officers detected odours ranging from distinct (a rating of 3 out of 6) to strong (4 out of 6) in Leeming and observed odours at Bannister Road, Canning Vale, next to Biofilter 2 of the SMRC's RRRC were strong (4 out of 6). The DEC officers described the odours in Leeming as a piney, compost odour consistent with odours from Biofilter 2."

"And what was the Chairman of the SMRC's written response to this? - 'SMRC staff are still in discussion with DEC officers and we will continue to work with the DEC to achieve the best outcome for the community'. That just isn't good enough."

"You should get paid and assessed by your performance, not words. It is all well and good to promote recycling and the fact that you may divert waste from landfill but not if you continue to be a serial polluter."

"The community's right to freedom from pollution should be given the highest priority not only with the SMRC but with the DEC as well. At the moment, it does not appear that it is."

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