

**SOUTH METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL REGIONAL RESOURCE RECOVERY
UNIT**

Statement by Member for Riverton

6 May 2010

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton) [12.57 pm]: The Department of Environment and Conservation has amended the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's licence to operate a regional resource recovery unit in my electorate of Riverton to include six new odour clauses.

While the member for Jandakot and I personally believe that the new clauses are still not strong enough, I am pleased that they are included in the SMRC's new licence. Those clauses should have been in place years ago in the SMRC's first licence to operate.

It seems incredible that, despite years of complaints from the community about the emission of odours from this site and the loss of amenity they have suffered, the SMRC's previous licence contained no clauses whatsoever about odour.

At briefings I recently attended with senior officers from DEC and the minister, I was assured that the new odour clauses will provide DEC with a stronger legal basis for taking action against the SMRC for odour breaches.

From experience, the local community knows that it is impossible for the SMRC to convert putrescible waste into compost without creating unacceptable odours. The problem is made worse because the plant is located far too close to residential homes.

Despite the SMRC undertaking remedial work to contain odours, the local community is still experiencing stench in their homes on a regular basis. As a consequence, the local community is losing faith in DEC as regulator to hold the SMRC accountable for its pollution.

I commend DEC for toughening the SMRC's licence conditions and call on it to now use its many powers to ensure that the local community is free from unwanted odours.