



## *Media Statement*

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**23 March 2007**

### **Composting facility faces further enforcement action**

A Canning Vale composting facility has been given until the end of the month to address odour issues.

The Department of Environment and Conservation has issued three Environmental Field Notices (EFNs) in the past two weeks to the South Metropolitan Resource Recovery Centre.

Environmental Management Director Robert Atkins said the EFNs were issued to the SMRC after DEC received a number of complaints from local residents.

He said DEC officers also detected distinct odours at the facility on several occasions.

“Department representatives met with SMRC management on 21 March and informed them that odours coming from the facility since it recommenced full operations were unacceptable,” Mr Atkins said.

“The SMRC has now been given until the end of March to rectify the problem or face enforcement action under the Environmental Protection Act.

“The community has been extremely patient regarding this issue and DEC understands its frustrations.”

He said the facility’s composting operations were temporarily suspended in December after DEC officers confirmed unacceptable odours were coming from the centre.

In late January officers from DEC confirmed the SMRC had taken measures to address the odour issue and the Section 73 Notice was conditionally revoked.

“After operating the composting facility at half capacity for seven days DEC officers believed the odour issue had been adequately addressed,” Mr Atkins said.

“However, since the plant started operating at full capacity we have again confirmed that the odour has returned and have therefore requested that SMRC immediately rectify the situation.

“If off site odours continue at unacceptable levels, DEC will take appropriate action.”

DEC officers are continuing to carry out extensive air sampling to determine the components of odours and their concentrations.

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