



SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

6 January 2007

MEDIA STATEMENT

Disappointment with DEC Decision

The community's waste will continue to go to landfill adding greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere as a result of the Department of Environment and Conservation's decision not to reopen the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's waste composting facility in Canning Vale, said SMRC Chairman Cr Doug Thompson today.

"This is an extremely disappointing decision which jeopardises a vital effort to combat climate change in Western Australia," said Cr Thompson.

"As a result of the decision, the SMRC will not receive household waste at the waste composting facility, part of the SMRC's Regional Resource Recovery Centre. Regretfully, this action means the waste from over 350,000 residents across the region will go to landfill adding approximately 2100 tonnes of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere each week.

"I can not understand how the Minister for Environment and Climate Change would allow such a decision to be made by his Department, apparently based on a handful of unverified complaints and little scientific evidence.

"The SMRC is the first local government in Australia to operate a greenhouse friendly project providing greenhouse gas abatement verified by the Australian Greenhouse Office, part of the Federal Department of Environment and Heritage.

"The SMRC is committed to providing the residents of the south metropolitan region with the Regional Resource Recovery Centre, an environmentally sustainable, greenhouse friendly recycling and waste processing service which has become the largest producer of carbon credits in Western Australia and prevents over 180,000 tonnes of Greenhouse gasses from entering the atmosphere each year."

END OF MEDIA STATEMENT

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