

# ODOUR PROBLEMS!

## News from the Canning Melville Community Odour Action Group.

Visit our Website: <http://www.cmcoag.com>  
Or phone Mob: 0410 463 737

### Why Is the Stench Being Allowed to Continue?

- The RRRC are in breach of Section 49 of the Environmental Act. However the Department of Environment and Conservation is allowing the RRRC to operate, while the affected residents of Leeming, Willetton and Canning Vale continue to suffer from this disgusting odour.
- Over \$45 million has been spent, so far, on the RRRC. A large percentage of this comes from the rates that you pay!
- The RRRC are not in compliance with the Ministerial conditions in regards to the running of the plant. And the most important issue... there is NO NEGATIVE PRESSURE in the Waste Composting Facility.
- It appears the building has never had negative pressure. The building design is not suitable for collecting the foul air under it's current setup. And it seems that unless a lot of money is spent it is not possible to achieve negative pressure in the building the Waste Composting Facility is operating from. It's due to the building not having negative pressure that we're experiencing this repugnant odour.
- The 4 bio-filters at the facility were also identified as a source of odour from the Waste Composting Facility. When asked why the biofilters aren't working correctly, the CEO of the SMRC, Stuart Mc Call, claimed it's because they haven't been maintained due to "inexperience".

- The odour is still getting stronger but, on occasions, has a different smell. The RRRC, at times, are using a masking agent, which isn't having a positive affect on the odour. In fact, over the past weeks there has been a huge rise in complaints from the odour coming from the RRRC.
- The odour was never supposed to reach beyond 300 meters of the plant. The RRRC are supposed to log every complaint within 24 hours - this is all detailed in the odour report. If the RRRC are logging complaints such as this via an incident report then why hasn't the appropriate action been followed through with regards to solving this problem. Why are the Department of Environment and Conservation allowing this to occur?
- A major concern is people's health. We've asked for extensive testing to be done on the odour filled air. The original testing was only from a handful of compost... the air itself hasn't been thoroughly tested to meet our concerns and requests.
- Residents are experiencing blood noses, severe headaches, rashes, burning eyes, runny noses, cagging, coughing and dizzy spells - the lack of commitment by the Canning and Melville Councils, Department of Environment and Conservation, SMRC and the RRRC to ensuring the health of the residents in Leeming, Willetton, Canning Vale etc does little to put our minds at ease.
- We are often not able enjoy our back yards for outdoor living including BBQ's, birthday parties, general entertaining, families and friends coming over from meals. Residents frequently experience sleepless nights because the smell is in our homes. We cannot hang our clothes on the line because they stink, and the thought of stepping into a backyard when the stench is at its peak is repulsive.
- Even though the RRRC does have a contingency plan for when the Waste Composting Facility is not running properly the SMRC and RRRC refuse to use it. The councils also claim that if they shut the plant down to fix it, as we've requested, some councils could be in financial difficulty. We're continuing to suffer because the councils can't afford to shut this plant down.

- We've been in contact with the Premier, Ministers for Health, Environment and Local Government, Department of Environment and Conservation, Councillors, the SMRC and RRRC in regards to the odour and yet after all the 100's of formal complaints that people have made - and the RRRC breaching section 49 - the Department of Environment and Conservation still refuses to shut the plant down and go to their contingency plan. The Department of Environment still claims, even after it has been proved over and over, that *they* still have to prove that the odour is coming from the RRRC.
- Mark McGowan currently has in place a \$1 million fine, if section 49 is breached, and a further \$250,000 per day if the breach is continued. He has also proposed that this be increased to \$5 million and \$500,000 per day. As far as we know the RRRC hasn't incurred such a fine. Why have rules if the offenders are not held accountable?
- The handling of this whole situation is appalling.
- The Waste and Recycle Conference 2006 is going to be held in Perth from the 19-22nd September, 2006.  
<http://www.wasteandrecycle.com.au>

The RRRC is going to be shown as an example of what Perth can achieve in regards to waste management. The thought of this being used as an example of a successful option for landfill is shocking! There will be a tour running through the RRRC in the afternoon from there delegates will visit the Jane Brook Winery. What's so disgusting about this is that the major sponsors of the conference are the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Western Australian Local Government Association and the Waste Management Association of Australia.

- MORE SHOCKING NEWS! There is going to be a plant modelled on the RRRC which is going to be built in Mindarie. Seven councils will be involved in this waste facility also. There is going to be a display on this at the Waste and Recycle Conference 2006. If the RRRC plant in Canning Vale isn't working correctly and families and animals are suffering due to this - folk in the surrounding areas of the above mentioned plant may end up in the same situation as us.

- The SMRC appears to be very artful in self-promotion in regards to "selling" the concept and their own progress of the plant. Why are they allowed to continue to operate and receive more funding. There appears to be no-one policing the overall pollution. Why are the RRRC and the SMRC allowed to continue to operate under such alarming conditions?
- What we want to know is...

"WHAT ARE THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION DOING TO HELP STOP THE ODOUR"

- When we ask specific questions to ministers and councils, they go to the SMRC or RRRC for their answers. This doesn't make sense. Who is "policing" the SMRC and the RRRC? If the RRRC aren't held accountable by anyone they become a power of their own. For which it seems may be the case.

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

This is happening right under your nose...

In Your Family, Your Home, Your Suburb...

To register your odour complaints or to contact us in regards to helping us with this atrocious, sickening and "hard-to-believe this can be allowed to carry on" situation please view the details below.

**Please email the CMCOAG at:**  
stopthestench@cmcoag.com

**Visit the CMCOAG website:**  
<http://www.cmcoag.com>

**CMCOAG phone number:**  
Rod: Mob 0410 463 737

**To Complain of the Odour via phone - Peter Johns:**  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
For Day time (closes at 5pm): 62508089  
After Hours: 0427193873

**Be assured if you're not getting the odour someone else is. It just depends on the weather conditions who the "lucky" recipients are.**

**DON'T LET THIS CONTINUE A MINUTE LONGER!**

**The more you support the CMCOAG the more influential the group will be.**

18/9/06

Kind regards

Mandy

CMCOAG - Canning Melville Community Odour Action Group

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