



## *Media Statement*

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2 February 2007

### **Composting operation to recommence with conditions**

The Department of Environment and Conservation has conditionally revoked an Environmental Protection Act Prevention Notice that it served on the South Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) Waste Composting Facility in Canning Vale.

The facility was served the notice on 20 December in response to a number of odour complaints by local residents and investigations by DEC officers.

Acting Deputy Director General Robert Atkins said the prevention notice was removed after DEC received an independently verified assurance from the SMRC that the issues identified in the notice had been addressed.

He said SMRC had received expert advice from consultants on the specific requirements of the operation of bio-filters and how to avoid the malfunctions that previously caused odours.

“A specific moisturising maintenance program has been developed for the bio-filters to take account of the dry Western Australian climate,” he said.

“Modifications to the air collection system will improve the efficiency of the removal of odorous air and humidifiers will be installed so that moist air enters the bio-filters preventing them from drying out.

“We are satisfied that the centre’s composting facility, particularly the bio-filters, should operate within the approved conditions and commitments given to DEC by the SMRC.

“Therefore, DEC has revoked the Prevention Notice and has given conditional approval to the SMRC to recommence receiving waste for processing through the facility.”

Mr Atkins said the facility would operate at 50 per cent capacity for one week.

“If independent consultants confirm it is operating in compliance with its Ministerial Conditions in relation to odour emissions during this time, the facility can then increase to 100 per cent capacity,” he said.

“DEC will closely monitor start up operations to ensure local residents and businesses are not adversely impacted by odour again.

“The SMRC will also be required to institute additional monitoring and bio-filter maintenance, including daily inspections by odour consultants, until all plant air collection system modifications are completed.

“DEC also requires the odour consultants to continue monthly inspections for the next 12 months.”

The SMRC will be making changes to its complaints management and routine ambient air monitoring procedures to ensure periodic independent verification of the facility’s performance and that complaints are properly investigated.

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