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Labor must address stink bomb problem

Shadow Environment Minister Dr Steve Thomas has called on the Carpenter Government to adopt a “make it work or move it” policy on waste disposal centres in the Perth metropolitan area.

Dr Thomas said the Carpenter Government had an obligation to invest in any waste treatment plant that might become a “stink bomb” in residential neighbourhoods.

He said if odour control could not be maintained, the Government should financially assist the plants to move away from residential areas.

“The State must ensure current and future facilities function properly or move them – over the scarp to unpopulated areas if necessary,” Dr Thomas said.

Dr Thomas said the Carpenter Government had doubled the waste levy in Western Australia, but had stripped this funding from those doing the recycling.

He said the Government should use the money collected from the levy to address the “stink bomb” issue.

Dr Thomas said the recent debacle over the waste treatment plant in Canning Vale had angered the local community.

“The Government closed a recycling plant and then opened it again, gaining nothing but greenhouse gas and without giving any clear direction for the future,” he said.

“The people of Perth deserve to know how health and odour issues that can associate themselves with waste treatment will be handled.”

Dr Thomas said the issue of waste treatment and odour emission was approaching crisis point with the current and proposed development of a number of waste treatment centres.

“The Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning is only one of a number of projects to face odour issues,” he said

“The proposed Mindarie regional recycling centre and Alkimos waste water plant will join the Woodman Point waste water plant as other key projects where odour control is a central plank.

“The Carpenter Government must ensure these facilities work properly and contain associated odours, and if necessary contribute financially to the cost of getting it right.

“It is no longer acceptable for the Government to hide behind state corporations or the growing burden on local governments.”

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