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Pressure on SMRC

By **CAROLINE SMITH**

RESIDENTS' complaints about odour from the Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale have yielded some progress, with an Environmental Protection Notice placed on the operator, the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council, this week.

A Department of Environment and Conservation investigation found the RRRC was producing odours, despite years of denials by the SMRC that the facility was the source of the problem.

The SMRC will now be legally required to produce a report by April 13, and an implementation plan by April 23, to identify and deal with the cause of the odours.

DEC deputy-director, general environment, Robert Atkins said the SMRC should bring in an independent consultant to complete a detailed engineering review and systems audit as a first step.

"The consultant is needed to identify any deficiencies and possible improvements that could be made to reduce odours and the impact on the nearby community," Mr Atkins said.

"I understand the community's frustration at the time it is taking to sort this out, however DEC is using the legislation to the full extent under the circumstances by issuing an Environmental Protection Notice."

Meanwhile, the City of Canning announced last Tuesday it would withdraw from the SMRC after a vote at a special meeting on February 19.

Several councillors expressed concern that the SMRC had not adequately responded to their inquiries about the RRRC, and had produced a YouTube video mocking

residents' complaints, while others said talks should continue, since ratepayers still had an investment in the issue.

Canning Melville Odour Action group spokeswoman Mandy Clarke believes the council has done the right thing.

"I think all the councils participating in the SMRC should be finding other much greener and safer options for their rubbish and withdrawing from the establishment agreement," she said.