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# Sniff of better future

RESIDENTS' odour concerns about the Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale may have turned a corner, with an Environmental Protection Notice placed on the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council this week.

A Department of Environment and Conservation investigation found the RRRRC was producing odours despite years of SMRC denial that the facility was the source of the problem. The SMRC will be required to produce a report by April 13, and an implementation plan by April 28, to 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.

"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," he said.

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 the SMRC had not adequately responded to inquiries about the RRRRC, and had produced a YouTube video mocking residents' complaints, while others asserted talks should continue, as ratepayers still had an investment in the issue.

Canning Melville Odour Action group spokeswoman Mandy Clarke said she believed the council had 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.

"The poorly run and operated RRRRC facility appears to be nothing but a burden on the councils financially, guzzling up residents' rates and emitting its noxious odour on residents affecting their lives and health," she said.