

# Waste still a worry

By **CAROLINE SMITH**

CANNING Council's decision to withdraw from the South Metropolitan Regional Council in 2010 has raised questions about the future of waste disposal in the area.

The council will continue investigating its waste disposal options for the future during the next 15 months, before its time as an SMRC member runs out.

Canning councillor John Wibberley said last week the withdrawal – which followed much criticism of the SMRC and its Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale – signalled an uncertain future in

terms of how waste will be disposed of if the council does not use the recovery centre.

"I have grave concerns about what will happen now," he said. "Recycling plants seem to be the way ahead for dealing with waste – I think in the future landfill sites will be redundant."

SMRC chairman Doug Thompson echoed the concerns, saying landfill sites may not be easy to find.

"Where will Canning dispose of its rubbish? Landfill sites are at capacity," Cr Thompson said. "Canning council is entitled to make its decision, but the councillors now owe the people they represent some answers – if not the RRRRC, then what?"

Canning Mayor Joe Delle Donne said the council had made the correct decision in its withdrawal, despite the uncertainty over waste disposal.

"Council's decisions to withdraw from the SMRC was made in the best interests of our community and following months of research into viable alternatives of disposing of the city's waste," he said.

"For some time council has been critical of the manner in which the SMRC has handled the odour issue. We do not believe they have taken the concerns of residents seriously enough and we cannot in good conscience remain a member council.

"Council has also been concerned at the

major increases in costs and we believe we can provide our residents and ratepayers with a more cost-effective and efficient waste strategy. The council will remain a member until July 2010."

Canning resident Andy Mullins believes people were frustrated by the SMRC's handling of the odour problem, and had given up providing feedback to them.

"People are complaining about the odour, but not to the SMRC," Mr Mullins said. "It's a waste of a phone call, because they don't take it seriously."