

City to monitor odour complaints

18/May/2010

By Lauren Peden, Canning Times

Comments:

THE City of Canning is investigating ways it can monitor complaints of odour emissions from the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's Canning Vale waste composting facility.

At last Tuesday's council meeting, it was agreed a report into the establishment of an in-house complaint procedure, including a free call number, and the use of monitors would be made available.

Cr Bev Olsen had urged councillors to support the move to help suffering residents.

"I am not scared to stand up for the community on any issue and this is one I know is causing a lot of stress," Cr Olsen said.

Cr Mary Daly backed the decision, saying it was time council looked after its ratepayers rather than worrying about the cost.

Canning Mayor Joe Delle Donne agreed when it came to the health of the community outlaying money should not be an issue.

"It may be something more damaging and sinister than just the odour. It is our responsibility and when we get the data we will know where we're going," he said.

Cr Graham Barry said it was an opportunity for council to capture samples to test for possible chemical contamination.

Council's decision follows new draft licence conditions relating to odour emissions at the waste facility. A DEC spokeswoman said the new conditions were being imposed to ensure the SMRC understood its responsibilities and managed the Regional Resource Recovery Centre to prevent unreasonable emissions.

"The odour conditions will put stringent requirements on the SMRC to address odour management issues and will give DEC the ability to enforce those requirements more effectively than it has been able to under the previous licence," she said.

SMRC spokesman Chuck Ellis said the company was determining what impact the amendments could have on operations.

Riverton MLA Mike Nahan said the clauses should have been in place years ago in the SMRC's first licence to operate.