

# Extension for odour notice

By **ADAM BROCKMAN**

THE Southern Metropolitan Regional Council has been given another extension to prepare its response to ongoing odour concerns over its waste composting facility after its original proposal was deemed "inadequate".

The Department of Environment and Conservation last week outlined details of an environmental protection notice to be served on the SMRC to address what it says are flaws in its proposal.

However, after a meeting on Thursday, the DEC did not serve the notice and instead granted the SMRC until January 12 to re-submit its proposal to form the basis of a notice.

The DEC said the SMRC had advised its consultants would begin the required investigations and action on January 5.

The Regional Resource Recovery Centre was shut down in 2007 and was later reopened after measures to stop the odour were introduced.

In October, after a lengthy investigation,

the DEC reported a new odour was emitting from the plant's composting facility.

Riverton MLA Mike Nahan said DEC's reluctance to close the RRRC showed it struggled to combine its dual roles of waste management and pollution regulation and called for its structure to be reviewed.

DEC deputy director general Robert Atkins said last week a notice would be issued for improvement and a timeframe for implementation.

Dr Nahan said the SMRC response opposing the DEC's finding had been "grossly

inadequate" but hoped the recent extension was a positive sign it was prepared to resubmit a more appropriate abatement plan.

He said while the DEC's investigation had been thorough, its reluctance to close the RRRC had allowed the SMRC to delay a solution and forced residents to endure another Christmas with the odour.