

Dump fee hike: rate rise fears

By MICHAEL FERRANTE

City's rubbish disposal costs increase up to 118 per cent

THE City of Canning does not yet know what effect the massive jump in its rubbish disposal costs will have on rates for 2009-10.

The SMRC announced in March that gate fees charged to councils for disposing recyclables at its Canning Vale Regional Resource Recovery Centre, would increase 118 per cent to about \$82 a tonne.

Fees for green waste from verge collections has gone up 79 per cent to \$70 a tonne and house-

hold rubbish fees are up 15 per cent to \$133 a tonne.

The new fees have been charged since April 1 this year and will be in place until June 30.

If the higher gate fees stay the same, the extra cost to the City of Canning between April 2009 and March 2010 would be \$1.03 million.

Mayor Joe Delle Donne said the SMRC fee hike would be considered as part of the budget re-

view process but would not speculate on whether ratepayers would be hit with higher rates as a result.

"Until council has the opportunity to discuss all aspects of the budget and rate setting with the city's administration, it would be premature and irresponsible of me to make any comment," Mr Delle Donne said.

The SMRC said the fee hikes were necessary to remain eco-

nomically viable amid the global financial crisis, and to recoup the projected shortfall of \$2.8 million in recycling income this year.

"This is a difficult decision for the Regional Council to make however, it's a necessary one to ensure the SMRC continues to meet the community's demand for recycling," SMRC chairman Doug Thompson said at the time.

It says commodity prices for recyclables had dropped up to 60

per cent since 2008.

Meanwhile, the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs tabled an inquiry last week stemming from a petition over odours at the RRRRC facility.

The report found community concerns about the long-standing problem were justified. It also found the SMRC had taken steps to identify a technical remedy to address odour issues, and that there were "cost effective engineering solutions" for dealing with the problem.