

Publication: Canning Times - North; Date: Dec 2, 2008; Section: Front Page; Page: 1



Odour 'fix' delayed

By **ADAM BROCKMAN**

THE Department of Environment and Conservation will rule within two weeks if a Southern Metropolitan Regional Council proposal to test for odours from its waste composting facility is adequate.

The SMRC, which has continued to deny a problem exists, was required to formulate an abatement plan within 21 days after the DEC released a report that found odours being emitted from the facility were having an unreasonable impact on the community.

SMRC chairman Doug Thompson said he remained confident the Regional Resource Recovery Centre did not affect the community and outlined a proposal for additional testing that "would determine if there was any source of odours coming from the facility".

DEC deputy director general Robert Atkins said the DEC would determine the adequacy of the plan and look at its ability to be implemented within a set timeframe.

"The SMRC's timely response to the DEC's request is encouraging and the department is looking forward to this facility

operating effectively in its treatment of waste on behalf of the community," he said.

Leeming resident Rod Petterson said the SMRC's proposal was a delaying tactic, as the DEC had already established that an odour existed.

"It is a concern that the SMRC is willing to allow the residents to suffer another summer of stench while undertaking a desperate tactic to delay the inevitable," he said.

Cr Thompson said the SMRC's plan included extensive investigation and testing to determine the source of any odours within the RRRC in Canning Vale and scientifi-

cally measure whether the facility affected the community.

"If there is a problem we will do everything possible to fix it," he said. "There is considerable pressure from some in politics and individuals in the community to close the facility. However, if the RRRC were to close, the impact on Canning, Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle, and Melville would be massive, both financially and environmentally."