

Residents take another hit

By MICHAEL FERRANTE

Higher rubbish fees follow hike announced in April

CITY of Canning ratepayers can expect to wear the added cost of rubbish collections after the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council announced last week that gate fees for household waste would increase almost 17 per cent, or an extra \$22 a tonne.

The latest gate fee hike is contained in the SMRC's 2009-10 budget adopted last week, bringing charges to process waste from

green top bins to \$155 a tonne. It comes hot on the heels of a 15 per cent jump introduced on April 1.

Green waste from verge collections has been reduced from the current charge of \$70 a tonne to \$60 a tonne.

Canning will continue to be billed directly by a private contractor employed to process its recyclables until a long-term waste

management plan is decided on.

The SMRC's recycling plant was destroyed by fire in June.

The SMRC operates the Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale, including the controversial household waste composting facility.

Chairman Doug Thompson said added cost pressures from factors beyond its control had

forced up its own fees and charges to member councils, including Canning, for 2009-10.

"We have had to contend with significant financial issues in recent months arising mainly from the global financial crisis, but also through government policies and charges increases," he said.

He said the State Government's landfill levy increase from

January next year had added \$1.8m to costs.

Budget expenditure for 2009-10 includes \$6.5m for preventative maintenance on the waste composting facility, \$750,000 for odour management measures to satisfy requirements of the Department of Environment and Conservation's environmental protection notice issued in March.

The SMRC's budget statement said income from investment was down \$33,000.