

Waste site future is in balance

By **ADAM BROCKMAN**

THE furor over waste management in the southern suburbs continued this week with South Metropolitan Regional Council members closing ranks to consider responses to problems with the Regional Resource Recovery Centre.

The City of Canning has refused to outline any future action on the facility until after a closed forum with the SMRC on December 18.

"Any decision ultimately taken by council on the future of waste management will only be made after a thorough investigation of all our options," Mayor Joe Delle Donne said.

It follows motions of support for RRRC in Canning Vale by the City of Fremantle and City of Melville, which both requested that Premier Colin Barnett establish an independent community consultative committee to work with the DEC and the SMRC to help resolve individual concerns about the operation of the RRRC.

They also requested that the Waste Management Authority fund research into issues relating to the introduction of alternative waste technologies, and that the SMRC provide a report on the action it intends to take in relation to the development of the Odour Action Plan.

Melville chief executive Shayne Silcox said if the RRRC was forced to close, ratepayers could expect very significant cost increases. The City of Cockburn said

it had not taken a position in regard to the RRRC, as it had not yet seen the details of the SMRC's odour abatement proposal.

The Town of Kwinana and City of Rockingham have endorsed the SMRC Strategic Waste Management Plan that will investigate building a regional resource recovery centre in Rockingham or Kwinana.

Meanwhile, the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs will use the RRRC as a case study for an inquiry into municipal waste management in WA, citing "ongoing community concerns about the odour".

SMRC chairman Doug Thompson welcomed the announcement and said examination of the merits and disadvantages of three main methods of waste disposal - composting, land filling and incineration - in terms of their cost, community acceptance and their environmental impact, was long overdue.

"The RRRC has come under pressure from some members of parliament and individuals in the community to close. Critics have put forward the view that our waste should be dealt with in someone else's community. That's not practical or fair," Mr Thompson said.

The DEC confirmed that the SMRC's odour abatement proposal had been considered in detail and it expected to respond by the end of the week.



BMX and scooter enthusiasts are set to unleash their stunts as part of a competition at the Willetton skate facility on Saturday. Full story, page 3.

Picture: Bruce Hunt

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