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# Waste plan needed

RIVERTON MLA Mike Nahan said the State Government would formulate short-term contingencies for waste removal in case the Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) was forced to close.

It follows the recent release of a Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) report that found the facility was "the most significant source contributing to odours in the area".

Dr Nahan also cited the need for a complete review of the State's waste management strategy.

"The State Government must review the entire waste management strategy for the State, including developing alternatives to composting at Canning Vale," he said.

"This review must be wide ranging and consider the potential that the Canning Vale plant will need to be closed permanently, leaving the SMRC (Southern Metropolitan Regional Council) and its member councils with a large amount of non-performing debt.

"We need to ensure that the State has sufficient landfill capacity to cope with a temporary closure of the plant, potentially of many months."

The facility collects waste from approximately 1.5 million residents.

SMRC chairman Doug Thompson said any potential closure of the facility would put future investment in alternative waste technology at risk and be in conflict with the State's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act.

"The legislation, which was passed late last year, contains new measures to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and increase the rate of recycling in Western Australia," he said.

"If the DEC shuts down our facility, not only would they be working against the intent of the legislation, but what would they plan to do with one million wheelie bins full of rubbish every month? Is the DEC suggesting that one-third of Perth's waste should go to landfill, instead of being recycled and reused?

"This would be environmentally unsound, short-sighted and place great financial burden on ratepayers."

**Adam Brockman**