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Denial strategy demonstrated

THE persistent strategy of denial and deflection that has been employed by the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council has again been demonstrated by the chairman, Doug Thompson (SMRC denies odour, *Times*, November 11).

This strategy is the reason members of the local community refuse to engage with the SMRC.

It is still denying it is the cause of the problem, which defies belief and really challenges the credibility of the SMRC when its own reports are saying it does cause an odour and its odour survey supports the DEC odour survey results.

In May, 2006, a report commissioned by the SMRC stated: "The principal and most significant finding of the study was that the fugitive odour emissions from the aeration building are causing the bulk of the odour problems in the community".

Below is an extract from the SMRC Reference Group meeting in May, 2008: "In addition to the RRRC's bio-filter and green waste odours, 16 sources of problematic odours were detected in the Canning Vale industrial area.

Odours detected include:

rotting vegetables; fermented yeast; fishy; strong solvent; sulphurous; rotting organic matter; metallic; natural gas; and fertiliser.

"The members discussed the report, agreeing the odour inventory is not intended to rule out the RRRC as the cause of odours detected in the community and should not be taken as such".

No-one is questioning the philosophy behind the plant. If it did not cause an odour it would not be a problem as local residents cannot see or hear it.

It is a disgrace that the local residents are expected to be collateral damage because of a botched technology selection and questionable management practices.

*Rod Petterson,
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