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Deadline looms for waste facility

By **ADAM BROCKMAN**

THE Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) has until tomorrow to respond to a Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) ultimatum to address concerns about odour from its Canning Vale waste composting facility.

The SMRC declined to com-

ment last week on whether it intended to meet the DEC's demand, until after it submitted its official response.

It has previously criticised the methods of the report, pointing to its own research that identified 17 odour sources in the area, and questioned its ability to address DEC concerns if the exact source of the odour could not be identified.

The SMRC also called on the Premier to intervene in the process and investigate the DEC's methods.

It follows the release of a DEC report last month that found the Regional Resource Recovery Centre was the "most significant source of odour in the area".

The DEC gave the facility's operators 21 days, after official notification of its requirement on No-

vember 5, to formulate an odour abatement plan or risk being closed.

The DEC confirmed on Friday that it expected a plan to be delivered tomorrow and would make a decision on how to proceed once the submission had been reviewed.

Once the SMRC submits an action plan to reduce odours, the DEC will specify these actions in

an Environmental Protection Notice with which the SMRC must comply.

The DEC will also amend the facility's licence to include an offensive odour condition that would allow restrictions or closure if further testing found evidence of odours after the specified compliance period.

See www.inmycommunity.com.au for updates.