

# More pressure on waste body

By **ANGIE RAPHAEL**  
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FREMANTLE Council will reconsider its position on the South Metropolitan Regional Council following the recent fire that caused total destruction of the recycling plant, the increase in landfill levy from \$7 to \$28 a tonne and the global financial crisis.

A workshop will be held "as soon as possible" and will include alternative waste management solutions that meet the State Gov-

ernment's zero waste landfill strategy. The council has also asked for a financial audit.

At last week's meeting, Cr Les Lauder said the council needed to be objective, which he claimed it had not been in the past, due to Cr Doug Thompson's involvement with the SMRC as chairman.

Cr Alice King also expressed concern about Cr Thompson's bias, while several councillors questioned which "hat" he was wearing during the meeting after he gave a lengthy speech to the

council about the SMRC.

However, Cr Thompson said he had been part of the SMRC for 10 years and was surprised the councillors had waited so long to raise their concerns.

"As chairman of the SMRC, I have more information available to me on waste and recycling in WA than the other councillors do," he said.

"I don't see any conflict of interest there at all... what I'm saying as the SMRC chairman is the same as the council's waste man-

agement strategy."

The workshop is intended to give the councillors a better understanding of the situation and the costs involved if it decided to withdraw.

Meanwhile, City of Melville residents have presented a petition to the City, claiming they are appalled at the continued lack of consideration shown by the council regarding the Regional Resource Recovery Centre.

They have also requested the City provide air filtration sys-

tems and assist with landscaping to reduce the pollution.

Melville Action Group spokeswoman and Leeming resident Mandy Clarke said families had not been able to enjoy their homes or back yards because of the bad odours coming from the waste facility.

"These councillors are supposed to be representing their ratepayers, not neglecting them," she said.

Ms Clarke said the City should "wake up" to its responsibilities.