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Withdrawal bid halted

By **ADAM BROCKMAN**

CANNING councillors will meet with the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) following concerns about a failed motion by the city to withdraw from the regional group.

Council rejected a motion from Cr Chris Boots at the June 24 meeting to withdraw from the Regional Resource Recovery Centre project and the SMRC, which operates it.

Former Mayor Mick Lekias received a letter on the night of the meeting, signed by the mayors of SMRC member councils Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Melville and Rockingham.

The letter said that while it was apparent the council was under pressure from residents concerned by odour from the centre, it was expected the SMRC would face some difficulties, as with the introduction of any alternative waste technology initiatives.

"We collectively believe that we must continue to develop alternative waste treatment technology to be sustainable in the long term and we believe the SMRC is the best vehicle to achieve this," the letter stated.

"We believe that it is not in the best interests of Canning or the other member councils to make such a major decision without first having the opportunity to discuss the matter with other participant councils.

"Your decision will not only have significant ramifications for Canning but for all member councils involved. It would be disappointing if a decision was made that may jeopardise your continued and valued involvement without first the opportunity to explore your concerns."

Council later passed a motion

from Cr Lindsay Elliott to ask the SMRC to seek an alternative site for the resource recovery centre within five years. Cr Elliott said that while there was general agreement about the importance of the work conducted by the facility, it should be located away from residential areas to remove its impact on the lifestyles of residents.