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Odours to be probed

By **ADAM BROCKMAN**

THE Department of Environment and Conservation will rule within two weeks if a Southern Metropolitan Regional Council proposal for odour from its waste-composting facility is adequate, after the council continued to deny this week there was an odour problem.

The SMRC had to formulate an abatement plan within 21 days after the DEC released a report that found odours from the facility were having "an unreasonable impact" on the community.

SMRC chairman Doug Thompson said he remained confident the regional resource recovery centre did not affect the community and outlined a proposal for more testing that "would determine

whether there was any source of odours coming from the facility".

DEC deputy director general Robert Atkins said DEC would determine the adequacy of the plan and look at its ability to be implemented in a set timeframe.

"The SMRC's timely response to the DEC's request is encouraging," he said.

Leeming resident Rod Petterson said the SMRC's proposal was a delaying tactic, as the DEC had already established that an odour existed.

"It is a concern that the SMRC are willing to allow the residents to suffer another summer of stench while undertaking a desperate tactic to delay the inevitable," he said.

Cr Thompson said the SMRC's plan included extensive investigation and testing to determine the source of any

odours within the RRRRC in Canning Vale and scientifically measure whether the facility affected the community.

"While we are confident the RRRRC's waste-composting facility does not have an adverse effect on the community, we are going to investigate all possible sources of odour within the RRRRC and if there is a problem we will do everything possible to fix it," he said. "There is considerable pressure from some in politics and individuals in the community to close the facility.

"However, if the RRRRC were to close, the impact on Canning, Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle, and Melville would be massive, both financially and environmentally."