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YouTube footage causes stink

FOOTAGE posted on internet site YouTube has highlighted the treatment of residents affected by odour from the Regional Resource Recovery Centre, according to the Canning Council.

The four films, titled SMRC no odours tour, which have since been removed, showed Southern Metropolitan Regional Council members, staff and odour unit representatives on a tour of residential and business locations near the RRRC where odours have been reported.

Residents were outraged to discover the films included the names and houses of "frequent complainers" and identified other businesses as potential odour sources.

Recorded on two occasions in October, the footage was posted on November 8, a week after the DEC released a report that concluded the RRRC was the most significant contributor to odours in the

area. An SMRC spokesman said they were removed earlier this month after concerns from the DEC.

Canning Council voted to include the footage as part of a broad-ranging submission to the Legislative Council's Inquiry into Municipal Waste Management in Western Australia.

Cr Bev Olsen proposed the City include a copy of the YouTube films in its submission to show how the SMRC had treated the people affected by the odour.

"This was posted on YouTube for the world to see – it belittles the odour issue and identifies and names residents and businesses," she said.

Fremantle City councillor and SMRC chairman Doug Thompson said he believed the videos demonstrated councillors cared enough to visit locations where odours were reported.

"I have responded to email com-

plaints in the past to find no odour – on conveying this back to a complainant I have been accused of lying," he said.

"I now record visits I make to locations where odours are reported so I have it on record.

"DEC may have contacted SMRC, but as it was my personal YouTube website it really had nothing to do with the SMRC – I removed it after giving sufficient time for viewing by people who accompanied the tour."

Leeming resident Many Clarke said residents were outraged by the footage and had reported it to the DEC, local members, councillors and to the Environment and Public Affairs Committee.

"Their lack of knowledge of the RRRC odour is an insult to ratepayers – we picked up flaws in their statements all the way through each video," she said.