

MEDIA STATEMENT



Dr Mike Nahan MLA
Member for Riverton
Joe Francis MLA
Member for Jandakot

27 May 2010

SMRC's Incineration Plans Not On

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton and Mr Joe Francis, the Member for Jandakot said the community should be concerned at the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's proposal to establish a pyrolysis/gasification plant at its Canning Vale premises.

In general terms, pyrolysis and gasification are thermal processes that use high temperatures to break down waste. The process produces syngas, comprised of hydrogen, methane, carbon dioxide, and carbon monoxide, and other by-products including a carbon rich char and an oily tar-based substance.

"No community consultation has been undertaken and the SMRC does not have environmental approval for this project. And yet, the SMRC has applied for \$3.4m in Federal Government funding to get it underway," said Dr Nahan.

"The SMRC has a long history of poor management. The DEC recently put six new odour emission conditions on its license to operate after years of public outcry about the stench and its impact on people's health, wellbeing and amenity. This new proposal is just another example of the SMRC's indifference to the local community and its corporate responsibilities."

Mr Joe Francis said he was concerned that the SMRC did not have a significant buffer zone to separate its operations from impacting on nearby residential homes.

"The buffer zone between SMRC's operations and nearby homes is totally inadequate and far less than other similar-styled plants," said Mr Francis.

"I am also concerned that there have already been years of community outcry about the SMRC and its operations. Given its appalling past history, what guarantees can the SMRC provide to residents about the possible emissions and other environmental and social impacts that the local community may face from this new proposal?"

Dr Nahan said a 2002 South Australian report, compiled in association with Access Economics and the Environment Protection Authority outlined some serious concerns about the pyrolysis/gasification process.

"The report stated that even landfill performs better than pyrolysis in regard to air emissions and it also stated that the air emissions could be higher than best practice performance levels," said Dr Nahan.

"Given the dangers with pyrolysis and the SMRCs poor record to date, and that there are no clear, measurable, quantifiable emissions targets in their license, there is no way the SMRC should be allowed to even consider building a plant like this on its site at Canning Vale."

A Petition to Parliament outlining these community concerns is available from Dr Nahan's office on 9457 1282 or from Mr Francis' office on 9310 8777.

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