

6/1/07

This is an ignorant and irresponsible response from Cockburn Mayor Stephen Lee (who is also a board member of the SMRC) to state it is unsubstantiated comments from a handful of residents when thousands of residents have been greatly affected.

As far as it being unsubstantiated;

- The acting Principal toxicologist from the Environmental Health Directorate in The Department of Health Martin Matison in an email to the CMCOAG (Canning Melville Community Odour Action Group) dated 20th of November 2006 said "The Department of Health has received initial air monitoring results from the Department of Environment and Conservation undertaken from within the facility. The results indicate the presence of some chemicals at levels well beyond their odour thresholds and it is therefore conceivable that odours could be experienced by the nearby community.
- Minister for Health Jim McGinty has confirmed these comments in a letter dated 18th December 2006 where he says "Test results from within the facility indicate the presence of some chemicals and levels well beyond their odour thresholds, and it is conceivable that odours could be experienced by the nearby community"
- The SMRC have been aware for the past three and a half years that there have been major problems with the plant operation and the possible breaking of environmental laws. Mayor Lee is a member of that board. From a residents perspective, it appears as if the SMRC through their seemingly lack of action must believe that they are above the laws or exempt from them.

Further comments;

- Member councils from the SMRC dump their rubbish in our Neighbourhood... Don't they care about the impact it has on our lives and health??? Despite the fact that people have been living in the affected areas including Leeming, Willetton, Canningvale, Bullcreek and some parts of Murdoch, the SMRC got approval to build this plant adjacent to residential areas without proper consideration of the affect it would have. Conditions imposed by the Department of Environment and conservation and commitments made by the SMRC that they would abide by those commitments and conditions enabled them to process waste.
- Mark McGowan has stated in parliament that some of the conditions of the ministerial statement of 1999 have not been met.
- The planning department of the City of Canning gave permission for the plant to be built on this site so long as they complied with the ministerial conditions 1999. The licence was granted for the plant on condition that it complied with the ministerial conditions 1999.
- Just because it isn't in the Cockburn area doesn't mean a stench like what is being omitted should be allowed to continue.
- The Department of Environment have been investigating the RRRC and it's breeches of the Environmental protection Act long before the new Minister (McRae) was appointed. It is encouraging to see that the appropriate authorities

- within the government and the Department of Environment and conservation are enforcing the compliance with the ministerial operating conditions.
- What The Department of Health did in shutting the plant was right - it is a health and nuisance issue not an electorate issue and the residents have been suffering for over 3 and a half years - not being able to live freely in their homes or go about normal business without feeling sick from the terrible strong odour of rotting waste which seeps into and around our homes daily.
 - We are disgusted that Cockburn Mayor Stephen Lee 'slammed' the decision when the repugnant stench of rotting waste which has included all forms of household waste, rotting crayfish heads, pig and sheep manure and even on occasion human sewerage which all produces this repugnant odour, gases and possible chemical release into the atmosphere that is breathed in and suffered by thousands of people. Does this not concern him? How would he like his family members (children, parents) and any member of any community to have to suffer what this community suffers.

Canning Melville Community Odour Action Group
www.cmcoag.com

MEDIA STATEMENT

This is not an electoral issue, a responsible and informed decision has been made by the Department of Environment and conservation and enforced by the Minister for Environment Tony McRae.

Comments from Cockburn Mayor Stephen Lee seem to be out of place and trivialize this serious issue especially considering thousands of residents are affected, many of whom are not even in McRae's electorate.

Long before the new Minister Tony McRae was appointed, The Department of Environment were investigating the RRRC and their breaches of the Ministerial Statement which they are supposed to abide by as part of their licence conditions.

It is encouraging to see that the appropriate authorities within the government and Department of Environment and Conservation are now enforcing the RRRC to comply with the Ministerial statement.

What the Department of Environment and Conservation did in shutting the plant was right.

It is a health and nuisance issue not an electorate issue. The residents and local business have been suffering for over three and a half years, not being able to live in their homes or go about normal business without feeling sick from the terrible stink and odour of rotting waste which seeps into and around our homes and business daily.

Regards
CMCOAG