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To: CanningTimes@communitynews.com.au ; MelvilleTimes@communitynews.com.au
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2007 10:43 PM
Subject: Community Comment - (Response to Doug Thompson) Odour Being Emitted from the RRRC's Waste Composting Facility

Community Comment

Residents of Leeming and Willetton have asked, on many occasions, for thorough testing and confirmation that the chemical compounds found in the odour being emitted from the RRRC's Waste Composting Facility are NOT HARMFUL. We have NEVER had any guarantees that the odour is not harmful to our health.

The well used "letter from the Health Dept" is pretty much "old news" and things have progressed much further since then. So it's not really "fair" to use that as a convenient "back-up".

In a letter from Martin Matisons, Acting Principal Toxicologist, Dept of Health, on Monday, 20 November, 2006 (in regards to air monitoring results from DEC undertaken from within the RRRC facility) it stated "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."

On 28 December, 2006, Jim McGinty, Minister for Health, stated "The DOH has been informed by the DEC that you have been contacted regarding air sampling at your residence. Once analytical results are received by the DOH from this round of air monitoring, the DOH will be able to advise on potential health effects of the general public to odorous chemicals emanating from the RRRC."

Sampling was performed by the Chem Centre on 30 August, 2006. For which they used sophisticated field gear. It showed the presence of several odorous compounds inside the sheds Ammonia, Acetone, acetaldehyde, and toluene were found in parts per billion.

Ammonia, Acetone, acetaldehyde, and toluene - are considered to be dangerous VOC's. When seeking advice, it has been stated, that substantial exposure, even to parts to billion levels, for prolonged periods of time, and chronically, can cause severe illnesses. We've been breathing this in - on an ongoing basis - for over 4 years!

The SMRC have confirmed themselves, in their leaflets to households, that the RRRC is emitting an odour.

I find it very presumptuous of Doug Thompson to claim, or presume, that medical complaints pre-date the operation of the Waste Composting Facility. This is incorrect. And if the SMRC took the time to "care" about the residents of Leeming and Willetton they certainly would not be so proud of the "\$70 million" spent on this plant for which no-one can seem to get to work properly. Remember, the residents were here first - not the plant!

Residents have written complaints to the councils involved in the SMRC, to Alan Carpenter, Jim McGinty, other State Government Ministers, Department of Health, Department of Health - via the Toxicology Branch, and to DEC, stating they are suffering health-wise along with their family's quality of life. I personally, along with many others, have never experienced serious allergy-like symptoms previous to the odour being emitted from the RRRC's Waste Composting Facility. Don't you think it's strange that residents that have never experienced hay fever, or any other allergies, suffer severely from the odour when it occurs?

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Remember we experience the odour - and the symptoms - all year round!

Will the SMRC provide a written statement with a 100% guarantee that?

A. there is no danger from the RRRC's Waste Composting Facility

And

B. that we will not experience any long term health effects from the odour being emitted from the RRRC's Waste Composting Facility

M Clarke, Leeming

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