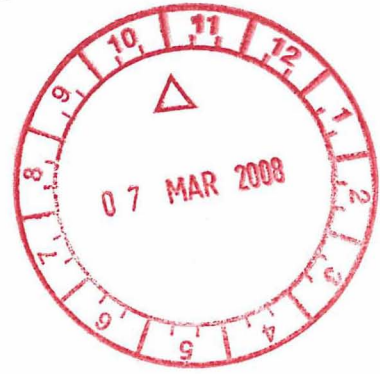


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Hon Sheila Mills MLC
Standing Committee on Environmental and Public Affairs
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000

28th February 2008

Dear Ms Mills

Ref; Petition # 59 – Regional Resource Recovery Centre

Firstly, thank you for considering the contents of my petition and accompanying correspondence.

The response from the Minister for the Environment Mr David Templeman MLA, summarised the various aspects of the process, and the development processes involved to reach this point in time, but does not address the personal anguish felt by all of the residents subjected to the bi-product of the Composting Facility ie the odour.

The Minister is aware that the odours “*have been problematic for several years*”, and that the DoH acknowledges that some odours “*could cause irritation to some people*”. DoH has not categorically ruled out health issues, but is aware “*that a number of residents...have experienced respiratory illnesses.*”

At the City of Canning meeting on Tuesday 26th February, Councillor Lindsay Elliott was asked a question by Councillor Mary Daly as to whether his daughter (who lives in Leeming) suffered nose bleeds when the odour was present. He answered **YES!!**

I asked some people if they would submit a victim impact statement – but I do not have contact details for many people, and others have sold and moved away from the odour. I attach some responses. Mandy Clarke of Leeming, who manages the CMCOAG website, was to forward to you about 400 emails, which in themselves are impact statements written under duress or out of frustration that the odour still invades their homes. The fact that a City of Canning survey (2007) found that nearly 90% of residents surveyed considered the odour unreasonable, should be overwhelmingly convincing to the outside observer that there is a major problem in the suburbs!!

In the last 7 days, a DEC officer has confirmed that 1 email and 14 phone complaints have been received, from 12 different addresses. The problems have not been fixed.

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Odours occur if the process is not being followed correctly, or if the plant and equipment are not capable of achieving the desired results, or if maintenance procedures are not maximising the potential of the equipment.

A google search for "Waste Composting odour problems", or "fires in Waste Composting Facilities", will give an indication of problems in these establishments. 2 examples follow;

The Bedminster Waste Composting Facility in Cobb County Georgia, the facility that was the role model that SMRC copied, commenced operations in 1996, had a fire in the plant in August 1996, followed by another fire in December 1996 shutting it down for over a year and a half. Because of odour complaints in its brief existence to this point," *in the downtime Bedminster Bioconversion Corp (BBC) and Cobb County had an opportunity to re-think and re-engineer the facility design – with the specific goal of odour control*" (www.jgpress.com/BCArticles/2001/100154.html) The facility recommenced operations in late 1998. In July 1999 the facility was taken over by Georgia County, because the operators could not turn a profit.

(http://wasteage.com/mag/waste_georgia_county_assumes/) In June 2005, an entry in BioCycle Magazine tells of how the Cobb County Waste Composting Facility is being closed, and Georgia County is trying to re-coup \$19 million it spent on the facility.

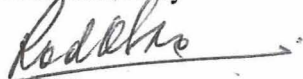
The City of Virginia Beach and the Southeast Public Service Authority (SPSA) are working together to locate a new site for SPSA's recycling operations. "SPSA, like the City, is sensitive to the odours and perceived health concerns expressed by citizens residing close to the facility and, as a result, has agreed to enter into negotiations regarding closure of the facility" (http://www.forester.net/mw_news_031407_spsa.html)

There is a simple, but expensive, solution. Relocate the Waste Composting Facility to a rural or isolated area in a state forest, where it could then process material from the whole metropolitan area without impacting on residential areas.

I conclude with a further quote from the Minister for the Environment. "Under the commitments made in the Ministerial Statement #517, SMRC committed to ensuring that odours would be contained within an odour contour which extended approximately 200 metres from the RRRC boundary, but did not impact on residential areas. A commitment is legally binding and contravention of a commitment is a Tier 1 offence"

Please think of the welfare of the residents and relocate the Waste Composting Facility.

Yours sincerely



Rod Olsen.

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