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Councillor speaks out over odour report

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Comments:

CANNING councillor Bev Olsen claims a council report has treated odour concerns of nearby residents of the Regional Resource Recovery Centre, as frivolous.

Cr Olsen's claims of bias towards the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC), which operates the RRRC waste facility in Canning Vale, came at last Tuesday's full meeting of council.

Her comments related to page 60 of the July 28 agenda which contained a one-paragraph summary of a Health Department report into the health effects of RRRC odour emissions.

The paragraph quotes an SMRC electronic newsletter article on July 17 which said that emissions from the plant were not a direct threat to health.

"This paragraph makes it (council's agenda) look like a biased report," said Cr Olsen.

"Why was this paragraph selected on its own? It appears council's report is slanted towards the SMRC. These chemicals are dangerous... the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has proved there is an odour."

She said the DoH report was contradictory and incomplete because the presence of certain chemicals and volatile organic compounds were unable to be tested.

She then put forward an amended motion that questioned the validity of the tests referred to in the DoH report, and the fact no one had reported odour-related health symptoms to local doctors.

Cr John Wibberley objected to the amended motion, saying there were very few odour complaints and that findings in the department's report should be accepted.

"We have scientists and chemists doing reports and it staggers me people are trying to discredit their findings.

"It makes me wonder if we're being duped by the complain-ants."

Cr Olsen's amendments were passed by council.