

# That smell lingers

By MICHAEL FERRANTE

## But plant authority sticks with green waste finding

THE Southern Metropolitan Regional Council is sticking by its claim that tree prunings and other green waste were to blame for irritating odours from its Canning Vale waste disposal plant, despite residents' claims that nothing had changed since the plant was shut down in mid-March.

The Canning Melville Community Odour Action Group said that residents in Leeming, Willetton and Canning Vale had still been exposed to "unbearable" and

"nauseating" odours since March.

Group spokeswoman Mandy Clarke said 70 odour complaints had been logged on its website since March 19, the day after the green-waste mulching plant closed for upgrade works. Some entries included multiple occurrences of odours.

The group continues to blame the regional resource recovery centre's waste-composting facility for the smells and health problems such as blood noses, chest

pain, elevated heart rates, dizzy spells, headaches and nausea.

Leeming resident Rod Pether-son said there were two distinct smells emanating from the plant, and he did not believe the problem was caused by green waste.

The latest rotten garbage-type odours had occurred early last week over two consecutive days.

SMRC chairman Doug Thompson stood by the findings contained in its study done by The Odour Unit

Pty Ltd, that pinned most of the odour problems on the process of turning green waste into mulch.

"It is very difficult to solve a problem you cannot find and the process has been particularly frustrating for members of our community who have little tolerance for odour," he said.

Riverton MLA Mike Nahan and Jandakot MLA Joe Francis have called for SMRC chief executive Stuart McAll and Mr Thomp-

son to stand down, saying their positions have become untenable.

"They have overseen a terrible period in the local community's history... we can't see any scope for solving the serious problems confronting the SMRC plant and regaining the trust of the community with those two men in charge," Dr Nahan said.

Mr Thompson said being attacked publicly by the MPs would only inflame community tensions.

Mr Francis called for an independent agency to monitor, detect and prevent emissions.