

Odour plan falls short



Friday, 12 December 2008

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has stipulated that significant amendments be made to an odour abatement plan submitted by the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC).

The SMRC's Canning Vale Regional Resource Recovery Centre is a recycling and composting facility that has been the subject of odour complaints from the surrounding community for several years.

DEC received the draft Odour Abatement Plan in November after ordering the SMRC to prepare and submit the plan after an investigation found the facility to be emitting odours that unreasonably impacted on the community.

DEC Deputy Director General Robert Atkins said the abatement plan needed considerable improvements to ensure that it leads to effective odour management at the facility.

"There are a number of areas of concern with the abatement plan and these issues must be addressed before DEC can endorse it," he said.

"Specifically, among other requirements, the plan needs to include an independent engineering review, a process and systems audit and an independent management review of areas that may impact on odour emissions and controls."

DEC will issue the SMRC with an environmental protection notice (EPN) under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 detailing the required amendments and a timeframe for implementing them.

"While DEC acknowledges the work undertaken in preparing the draft odour abatement plan, it is inadequate in its current form," Mr Atkins said.

"I am confident that the EPN will provide the necessary guidance to the SMRC to enable it to prepare and implement a comprehensive plan that will reduce the effect of odours on the community," he said.

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