

Mr R Petterson

Statement: Mr Petterson - Good Evening Mr Mayor, Councillors. My questions relate to the SMRC. Mr Mayor I have a number of questions, the first relates to a specific Councillor and the rest relates to Council which I will take on notice if that's alright. The first, I would like to direct that to Councillor Clarke, I believe whether intentionally or unintentionally the Council have been misled regarding the success of the SMRC and what they are actually achieving for the community.

Question 1 Mr Petterson - So the question I have for Councillor Clarke is what does he believe the SMRC waste composting facility is actually achieving for the community?

Statement: Mayor – So who have you got the question directed to?

Statement: Mr Petterson – Cr Clarke

Statement: Mayor – Cr Clarke. Cr Clarke would you like to respond now?

Answer 1: Cr Clarke indicated no.

Statement: Mayor – Cr Clarke doesn't wish to respond.

Statement: Mr Petterson – That's fine. Mr Mayor as we know the SMRC are known for their quality spin and their most recent spin dated 3 August on their website Councillor Doug Thompson said by participating in a Greenhouse Challenge Plus programme the SMRC assisted Australia in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by over 37 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, that's the same as taking 10.5 million cars off the road. As you know they employ two PR people and also have engaged an external PR gentleman so they know what they are putting out and know what their intent and message they are trying to get across.

Question 2: Mr Petterson - The question I have is, if they have contributed so much to the 37 million or claim they have got credit to it, the SMRC was recently accredited with 74,000 tonne of Co² abatement, so my question is if 37 million is saved Australia wide, what contribution has the SMRC waste composting facility at 74,000 tonne contributed?

Answer 2: Mayor – I think the only way that we will be able to give you an answer to that is for the City to write to the SMRC and hopefully we might get an answer.

Statement: Mr Petterson – Well I may be incorrect with my calculations, but I calculate it at 0.2% so that is like someone in Row 6 of the grandstand at the MCG expecting to go and stand on the stadium once the grand final is won and hold up the cup. Again this spin is unbelievable. I can move on if you like.

Question 3: Mr Petterson - The next question I have. I have got a report on the question I will ask. Was the Council aware of a report compiled by Brendon Doherty of the SMRC on 12 July 2006?

Statement: Mr Petterson - The reason I raise this question is because the next claim after saving all these greenhouse gases which if they didn't exist the polar caps wouldn't melt however there also saying they are stopping rubbish going to landfill.

Statement: Mr Petterson – The question I have is was the Council aware of the report compiled by Brendon Doherty on 12 July 2006 where he identifies that during the 2005/2006 year the SMRC received 82,623 tonne of waste, of that only 16,000 tonnes, which equates to about 19%, was turned into compost the rest either went to landfill or the potato peelings dried out. They said 40.9% was taken to landfill as primary trumble residual. 11.9% went to landfill as final screen residual so 51% got screened off and went to landfill anyhow which includes another transport cost or two and then 25% was attributed to moisture or mass loss. So the question I have was the Council aware of that particular report?

Statement: Mayor – I am not aware of it but I can ask our Executive Engineering and Technical Services Mr Sullivan to respond to that if there are any proceedings of this.

Answer 3: Executive Engineering and Technical Services, Mr Sullivan, yes that report is on record.

Statement: Mr Petterson – Thank you. Mr Mayor that leads me to they haven't been any more successful in keeping waste out of landfill. In the 2007/08 year the waste composting facility produced only 17,000 tonne of compost, and we are talking about again the waste composting facility and not the other areas down there at that particular complex. If they only produce 17,000 tonne how much waste was actually received at the waste composting facility and what happened to the rest. We would have to enquire to the SMRC about the exact tonnages in relation to that question Mr Mayor.

Statement: Mr Petterson – It appears again based on the previous report I have 20% for a \$34 million dollar investment doesn't seem to me to be successful. I shall move on if I can.

Statement: Mr Petterson - Question 5 relates to the SMRC for the current financial year, have allocated \$6.4 million dollars for engineering enhancements and preventative maintenance. This plant was only built 6 years ago at a cost of \$34.9 million and now expects the ratepayers to dish out another 20% on top of that.

Question 4: Mr Petterson - Can the City, again I can take it on notice, provide a detailed list and cost of the proposed works, and given the plant is only 6 years old is this an excessive amount of work that is required?

Statement: Mayor – Executive Engineering and Technical Services, Mr Sullivan.

Answer 4: Executive Engineering and Technical Services, Mr Sullivan, I believe there is a detailed breakdown of those figures published in the SMRC annual report.

Statement: Mr Petterson – Thank you. And finally Mr Mayor, the SMRC have previously thrown out the spin that they are required, because they keep the greenhouse gas out of the air, to produce 17,000 tonnes of compost to be credited with that 74,000 tonnes of abatement.

Question 5: Mr Petterson - How much greenhouse gas was required to create that amount of compost?

Answer 5: Mayor – I personally don't know as I have asked that question many times and have never got an answer to it. They gave me a formula but different formulas they get different answers.

Statement: Mr Petterson – Right. Like yourself Mr Mayor, I am seeking that information be a layman's response from the Department of Climate Change indicates that they get 21 times whatever they produce. Based on that information it looks like they are expending almost 80% in greenhouse gas to save again 20. They are not being particularly successful. Thank you for your time sir.

Question 1 Cr Olsen: I asked questions in a Council meeting on the odour issue. I asked these questions and the answers have been put in the attachments, but not in the notice paper. I would like to know why these questions and answers, particularly the answers to my questions, which took the SMRC three months to respond to, are not in the white notice paper.

Acting Chief Executive Officer: Thank you Mr Mayor, Cr Olsen, under normal circumstances, any questions taken during debate, if they are taken on notice, will be included in the following agenda paper, under the area of Questions. And they are detailed as Questions taken During Debate. If that hasn't occurred, I will need to go back and confirm and report back to you on that matter. But it is normal practice that if there is a question received during debate that is taken on notice that the answer will be given and it will be circulated as part of the next agenda paper.

Additional Information from Executive Finance and Client Services.

Report CM-157-09 Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) - Response to Questions Raised by Cr Olsen at the Ordinary Meeting of Tuesday 14 April 2009, was included on the Agenda for the Ordinary Council Meeting of 11 August 2009.

This report dealt specifically with Councillor Olsen's questions raised at the Ordinary Council Meeting of Tuesday 14 April 2009 pertaining to the SMRC:

“Those questions able to be responded to by the City of Canning were done so, and detailed in the minutes of Tuesday, 26 May 2009. The remaining questions were forwarded to the SMRC for response. Correspondence was sent to the SMRC in relation to this matter on 11 June 2009 and 20 July 2009”.

Correspondence was received by the Chief Executive Officer of the SMRC, dated 23 July 2009, in relation to the outstanding questions and was included as an Attachment to the above report.

Given the time period that elapsed between Councillor Olsen asking the questions and the response received from the SMRC, the questions were included as a separate report item, together with associated attachments.

Mayor G Delle Donne:

Saturday 26 August on behalf of the ratepayers and stake holders, I attended the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council 2009 Stakeholder Information Briefing held at the City of Melville, 10 Almondbury Drive, Booragoon. Mr A Sands provided DEC appropriate perspective on the Regional Resource Recovery Centre, RRRC odour emission and the implementation of the SMRC odour management plan. Finally, no one present disputed that there is an odour problem. Mr M Matthison presented the findings of the DOH, on health and issues relating to the emission from the RRRC and in particular the waste composting facility. Mr A Gilmore provided an overview of the SMRC financial structure and viability and RSM Bird Cameron 2009 revealed the RRRC financial performance with respect to the delayed business plan. Current asset book value is at \$54.8m. Mr J Woodhouse provided an overview of the SMRC statutory position and government structure. Present was Crs F Morgan OAM, S Clarke JP, J Wibberley, G Barry, B Olsen and Executive Engineering and Technical Services, Mr C Sullivan.

Cr Olsen:

Saturday 22 August 2009 I attended the SMRC Stakeholder information briefing at Melville Council of which there were four speakers.

First was Allan Sands from the DEC. He reported that the DEC were hoping that when the Environmental Protection Notice (EPN) is lifted (and the SMRC is compliant with the orders), that the odour will have improved. I am sure this would be the desire of all of the stakeholders. The stakeholders being the participating Councils and all of their

ratepayers, who are of course the over-riding stakeholders of the SMRC. Allan Sands reiterated that the source of the odours that the DEC found, and were in their report, were from the SMRC, and also that the number of health issues reported had increased. He also stated that the buffer zone at Neerabup, where the Mindarie Regional Council has a composting facility, is definitely a lot larger, and that this facility is also located next to a chicken farm. Unfortunately in Canning Vale the buffer zone is only 200 metres and is surrounded by the community.

The Department of Health speaker was Martin Matison. He reaffirmed that DoH had surveyed some doctors from a small surrounding area of the RRRC, but did not have the legal right to access patients records, and that not all volatile organic compounds (VOC's) and chemicals have been identified in the odours. It was stated that community people affected by the odours should go to their Doctor and report their symptoms, and request that the Department of Health be notified, then it will be investigated and their health issues recorded.

Other speakers were Mr John Woodhouse, from Woodhouse Legal, who spoke about Regional Councils and Mr Andy Gilmore from Bird Cameron who updated us on the financial aspects of the SMRC operations.