

SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL — LICENCE

496. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

Can the minister guarantee that her department has dealt with the ongoing controversy surrounding the operations of the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council in Canning Vale in an appropriate manner?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the honourable member for the question.

Is the member referring to the licence? It was a very broad question.

Hon Sally Talbot: I was referring to the controversy surrounding the operations.

Hon DONNA FARAGHER: It is a very broad question, Hon Sally Talbot. The reality is that there has been ongoing concern with the operations of the SMRC. We have had a debate on that in part in this house in the past. The department has issued a licence to the SMRC that has required a number of clear actions that the SMRC must take on odour in particular. That is subject to appeal. There have been a number of appellants. It is before the Appeals Convenor and he will provide advice to me in due course. If the member's reference is to the licence, yes, the department has issued a far stricter licence than the previous licence. There is also a requirement on the SMRC to complete a number of actions to reduce odour in particular. However, the licence is subject to appeal.