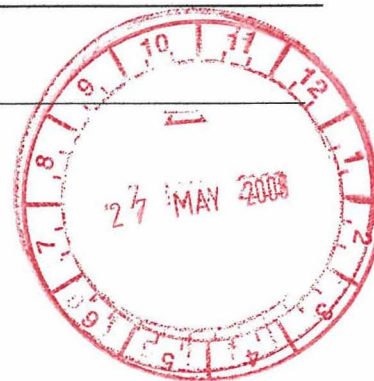

J.P. STRATTON



23rd May 2008

**The Chairman.
Environment & Public Affairs Committee.
Parliament House.
Perth. W. Australia. 6000**

RE: SMRC Waste Facility, Canning Vale.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am going to start off by saying I have lived in the same house in Willetton since 1981 and have enjoyed a good quality of air the majority of the time. However about four years ago that situation changed and not for the better I can assure you.

Because my house is in a north westerly direction from the Canning Vale Recycling plant I am not in the direct wind path from either a westerly or easterly wind that has blown over the facility and I feel very sorry for those that are. However if sometimes we get a south easterly I am made aware of the sites presence.

Basically during the day I do not have a problem with odours emanating from plant, it is between midnight and three in the morning that it makes it's presence felt. Initially I could not understand why I was getting this terrible smell in my house but a friend of my that has a lot more scientific knowledge than I provided me with an explanation for the phenomena.

It would appear that the gases emitted from this plant are of a methane nature and during the day they go straight up into the atmosphere and are therefore not noticeable. However somewhere between midnight and 3am in the morning the inversion layer cools and becomes a lot denser stopping the gas from passing through it. It in turn cools the gas so that it becomes heavier than air and it falls back to earth and starts covering all the houses in low lying areas much the same as a fog would do.

Because of this phenomena I have not been able to go to bed with a window or door ajar for the last four years, In other words every night I ensure that every window and door is closed tightly and yet I am still subject to the smell entering my home.

You might ask how this happens and the answer is simple it enters my premises through the air vents going up through my roof. I am referring here to those vents that exhaust air from the kitchen, the laundry, the bathroom and toilet. "It must be murder for those that rely on evaporate air conditioning where the air is taken from the outside and then into the house"

PUBLIC

Because I am now in my sixties I have to get up somewhere between 1 to 3am to go to the toilet and of course encounter the odour. As late as the night of the 19th and going onto the morning of the 20th of May my house was inundated by the smell. To add credence to what I am saying in relation to when the odour is at it's worst I am enclosing an article headed "Big Stink Over Smell" that was published back in March 2008. On reading through it you will see that Councilor Daly was called out to peoples homes at around 2.30am in the morning.

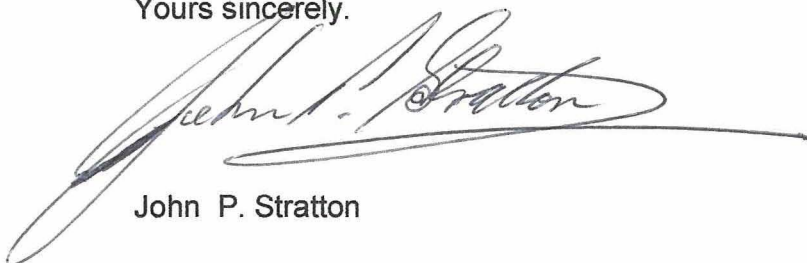
During this last summer that was extremely hot by all accounts I experienced a situation I never want to endure again. If you recall we had a period of five days where the temperature was well over 30 degrees "c" during the day and in fact at around 9pm it was still over 30. Because it was so hot and there were no evening breezes I could not open up my house to get fresh air into my premises but strangely enough the odour from the plant still continued to penetrate my house in the early hours of the morning. This resulted in the interior of my house smelling like the waste facility and I was ever so thankful when a westerly breeze arrived on the sixth evening and revamped the air quality within my house.

The waste facility should have never been allowed to be built so close to residential areas. Initially it was a private enterprise that ran into financial difficulties so the City of Canning became involved. Not to be content with handling the waste from the City of Canning they then extended the franchise to cover both the City of Cockburn and Melville, obviously with the view of additional financial enticement.

Never once were we the surrounding residents consulted nor was referendum held but today we are constantly being told to grin and bear it and the problem does not exist. In the last Council election two candidates representing our areas stood on a platform of doing something about the odour problem and they were overwhelming elected. To my knowledge they are doing a very good job to represent the concerns of their constituents

Please do what ever is within your power to assist and protect us and future generations from such environmental vandalism for I am tired of waking up with sore eyes and a running nose. Only God knows what the long term effects are going to be

Yours sincerely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Stratton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John P. Stratton

PUBLIC

Big stink over smell

THE recent surge in odour complaints generated debate at council's most recent meeting, with Councillors Mary Daly and Graham Barry saying they were called to witness the "putrid smell" in the early hours last month.

The *Canning Times* reported last week the Department for Environment and Conservation was investigating the 60-plus complaints lodged over the March 19 to April 1 period from residents claiming the odour was coming from a nearby Canning Vale waste-composting facility.

The facility's operator, the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council, said there was no evidence to suggest that all the reported smells came from the facility.

But on Tuesday night, Cr Daly said she received calls from Willetton and Leeming residents during the last weekend of March, and going out to their residences at 2.30am, she suffered burning in her

eyes and nose and was sick the following day.

Cr Barry also attended, along with a representative from the DEC, and said the smell was nauseating and his family commented on the "stench permeating from my clothing" when he returned home.

Both believed the smell was coming from the waste facility.

Former councillor Norm Snell asked a variety of questions from the public chambers.

He wanted to know why certain councillors had not declared an interest and asked who had attended the SMRC meetings on behalf of council.

Most of his questions were taken on notice.

Residents who smell a bad odour should lodge their complaint immediately to the DEC at natasha.maio@dec.wa.gov.au, the SMRC on 1300 556 726, or with the CMCOAG at www.cmcoag.com

Bad smell probe

By **CARLY CRUMMEY**

A **SPIKE** in odour complaints from residents near Canning Vale's Regional Resource Recovery Centre has caused the Department of Environment and Conservation to launch an investigation.

DEC pollution response manager Ken Raine said the regulator was conducting night odour surveys with trained air quality experts to track the odours' source and had raised the issue formally with the facility's operator, the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council.

Mr Raine confirmed more than 60 complaints were lodged over the March 19 to April 1 period through all sources.

The worst day was March 28 with 17 complaints, followed by March 19 with a further 11. He said there were usually about five per week.

Leeming resident Darryl Civin was one of the increasingly frustrated residents who complained, saying he and his family were at their wits end with the "revolting smell".

"We get blood noses, headaches and the smell keeps coming back - it makes you want to vomit," Mr Civin said.

He said he was getting tired of logging

complaints because "nothing was done" and said many of his neighbours had similar symptoms.

But SMRC chairman Doug Thompson said the number of complaints should be considered against the number of houses in the area.

He said there were more than 3000 homes within a 1.5km radius of the facility and 66 calls made to the SMRC's 24-hour hotline between January 1 and March 31. He said half of these calls came from four households.

"During this time there were only three incidents of verified odours in the community from the facility due to operational issues,"

Cr Thompson said. "In each case the fault has been identified, repaired and steps taken to ensure it does not re-occur."

He said a letterbox campaign from the Canning Melville Community Odour Action Group resulted in an "increase in email traffic".

Mr Raine said that while people had used the pollution emergency line in the past, it was preferable to contact the DEC through natasha.maio@dec.wa.gov.au to report odour.

The odour action group can be contacted at www.cmcoag.com. The SMRC's 24-hour hotline is 1300 556 726.