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Date: 25/05/2008 1:00:13 pm
Subject: SMRC Odour Problem

Attention Linda Omar.
Chairman
Environment and Public Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000



I would like to voice my grievances in regard to the South Metropolitan Regional Council's waste facility at Canning Vale. My family have lived in the Leeming area for the last 7 years but in the last 4 years since this facility was built we have been exposed to an extremely noxious odour being emitted from the Canning Vale waste facility. Our home is 1.5 kilometres from this facility and at random times of the day and night we can experience the most revolting smell. It is hard to predict when the smell will be there but it is most common when the weather conditions are a light easterly wind and most commonly in the evening and early mornings. Of course this is the summer and autumn winter pattern in Perth this time of the year, the time when you would like to be able to enjoy your outdoor entertaining areas or pursue outdoor activities. Another problem is that not only is it a time of year for entertaining it is often the hottest times of the year and this often means we can't run our evaporative air conditioner because this noxious odour is sucked into our house and can't be cleared because it is worse outside. The smell is so strong that it makes you physically feel like gagging and often brings on an instant headache. At night I will dab perfume under my nose so I can't smell it and be able to get back to sleep. Normally impossible because I am so seething because we are being exposed to this.

I can't even start to explain my frustrations with what we have had to put up with over the last 4 years. I know we are told to report the smell everytime we smell it to the EPA and the SMRC. I know we are supposed to contact a web site set up by the CMCOAG but basically I would spend a couple of times everyday going through this procedure if I reported it everytime I smelt this stink! just don't have the time. I am not a melodramatic type of person but I have had enough. I am sick of not being able to entertain in my home, I am tired of not being able to run my air conditioner in the middle of summer because of the fear of sucking this stench into my home I am embarrassed when family and friends visit and wonder what that smell is. I would move tomorrow but my husband is far more stubborn than me and he doesn't think it is right to expose another family to these possible health risks.

People are confused because they think that it is a recycling plant and it is only their recycling rubbish bins being processed there, they don't seem to realize that it is their green waste bins with all their household rubbish that is rotting and causing this odour. It was ridiculous that this facility was built in the middle of a residential area and I would love a solution to our problem. We were here first and I want the smell to go away.

Thankyou for giving me this opportunity to voice my concerns and emotions,

Regards,

Helen

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