



Tony Simpson MLA

Member for Serpentine-Jarrahdale

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Government ignores waste management problem Fails to protect residents from possible health hazard

Once again a Minister in the Carpenter Government has ignored a potentially serious issue that could affect the health of residents in Southern Metropolitan Perth.

For several months now the residents of Canning Vale, Willetton and nearby suburbs have suffered from a noxious odour that they believe comes from the Canning Vale Regional Resource Recovery Centre.

This facility, run by the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council, has, the residents believe, been guilty of gross neglect, resulting in an odour that can be smelt several kilometres away and is a possible health risk.

If these allegations are true, then the operators of the facility are possibly in breach of Part 5 Division 1-49 of the Environmental Protection Act.

However, despite the apparent seriousness of the issue, complaints to the Minister for the Environment Mark McGowan received little attention.

Local MLA Tony Simpson has expressed outrage at the Ministers apparent lack of concern regarding this issue.

"This is a potential environmental and health crisis that Minister McGowan and the rest of the Labor State Government would rather just ignore," said Mr Simpson.

"The people that have come to me seeking assistance don't even live in my electorate. Most of them live in Electorate of Riverton.

"Yet they found that he was not willing to help them on this matter.

"Apparently they also wrote to several State Ministers and the Premier, Alan Carpenter. Yet no one was willing to provide any constructive help.

"This is not good enough.

"I wrote to Minister McGowan myself on the 1st of September outlining my concerns regarding this matter.

"So far I have not received a reply.

"My office contacted the Minister's correspondence officer last week. They told me a reply would be forthcoming soon. That was over a week ago and my letter was sent over two months ago.

"Considering this matter is potentially very serious, it is unbelievable that the Minister would be so cavalier about it.



MEDIA STATEMENT

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“I have been in contact with the SMRC about the matter, and the CEO Stuart McAll responded much quicker. He has been able to organise a tour of the facility for my colleagues and I.

“He also assures me that work is being done to rectify the situation.

“However, others I have spoken to on the matter inform me that these are bandaid solutions at best that will make only a minimal impact on the odour.

“Even if the problem is solved now, it is not good enough that Minister McGowan has been so slow to respond to concerns.

“The State Government and in particular the Minister for the Environment have a duty of care to the community.

“I hope these allegations are exaggerated, but if they are not and the Government did not act to stop illegal pollution and a potential health risk, then it has failed in its duty to the people of Western Australia.”

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