



SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

MEDIA STATEMENT

SMRC chooses to temporarily close Waste Composting Facility

Date: December 4, 2012

The Waste Composting Facility at the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) will cease taking waste temporarily from the 15th of December 2012.

The Waste Composting Facility processes the contents of the green topped bin into compost for use in agriculture and soil amendment programmes.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) amended the licence the facility operates under in March this year to include the installation and commissioning of a wet scrubbing system of humidifiers by December 15th.

This \$4 million upgrade to the odour management system is designed to 'wet' the air entering the biofilters which provides optimum conditions for the four biofilters at the facility to remove odour.

'The SMRC has made other significant improvements to the odour management system above and beyond those required by the licence conditions, however due to circumstances beyond its control only five of the six humidifiers will be installed to the biofilters and commissioned by the required date'

'As a demonstration of the SMRC's commitment to the community and improving odour management the Council has resolved to suspend taking waste until all six humidifiers are fully operational' Chief Executive Officer, Tim Youé said.

Waste from the green topped bin will therefore be sent to landfill commencing December 16th until the works for the humidifiers are completed.

This is an interim measure and the SMRC will again be taking waste from the green topped bin by mid-January.

During this interim period residents of the region are encouraged to continue to separate newspapers, cardboard and containers and place them into the yellow top bin. All food, organic and general waste, grass clipping and small pruning's go into the waste composting (green bin). For a full list of what goes in which bin please visit www.recycleright.net.au

For more information on the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council visit www.smrc.com.au.

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Media backgrounder – About the SMRC

The SMRC is a statutory local government authority established by Local Councils in the southern part of metropolitan Perth. It is responsible for developing environmentally sustainable waste management solutions and climate change abatement measures for the communities of Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Kwinana and Melville.

The SMRC is committed to assisting the State Government to work towards achieving its Zero Waste objective by 2020.

Each year the SMRC diverts more than 60,000 tonnes of waste from landfill and prevents about 70,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere which is equivalent to taking more than 16,000 cars off the road. Its Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) in Canning Vale produces more than 25,000 tonnes of compost each year for use in agriculture and soil amendment programs and recovers approximately 70 sea containers per month of recyclables.

The SMRC employs 72 staff and provides work for 100 local small businesses and contractors each month. This contributes more than \$20 million to the economy.

Recycle Right is a campaign by the SMRC which encourages and assists residents and businesses in the Southern Metropolitan Region to recycle, reduce their rubbish and buy more recycled products. To find out what goes in which bin visit www.recycleright.net.au