



SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **SMRC meets fifteen stringent licence conditions**

Date: December 5, 2012

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) amended the licence the Waste Composting and Green Waste Facilities operates under in March this year to include twenty key new licence conditions. One of the conditions is to install and commission a wet scrubbing system of humidifiers by December 15th.

The SMRC has made every effort to complete works for a wet scrubbing system, however, due to delays in some components of the contracted works caused by events outside of the control of the SMRC is unlikely to do so by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December target.

Since May 2012, the SMRC has successfully achieved fifteen of the twenty new licence conditions by their respective target dates and will meet nineteen of the total twenty new conditions by their due dates.

'Notwithstanding the tight deadlines imposed by the new licence conditions, the position of the SMRC has always been to comply with them and we have taken a responsible and community minded approach by voluntarily stopping the receipt of waste until the wet scrubbing system is 100% complete.

The only alternative to processing kerbside collected waste from the green top bins and recovering the valuable organics at the SMRC's waste composting facility is to send the waste directly to landfill as there are no existing alternatives.' Chief Executive Officer Mr Tim Youé said.

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

The withdrawal of the Cities of Canning and Rockingham has not imposed increased debt on the RRRC Canning Vale Waste Facility or its remaining member councils as each withdrawing council retains responsibility for their portion of any debt.

For more information on the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council visit [www.smrc.com.au](http://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](http://www.recycleright.net.au)