

YOUR LETTERS

Community's own

To the item in The Standard of Thursday, February 7, page 11, "Council debates mailbox issue".

The Monarto mailbox building was built by the community itself over a quarter century ago.

At that time the community also ran the adjacent memorial hall built by the community in the 1950s.

With both community facilities on the same land, there was, at that time, no tenure problem.

The residents who built the mailbox facility were promised free lifetime use of their mailbox there.

The multiple changes in council staff over that time since means that councillors now do not have such "corporate knowledge" information provided to them at their fingertips.

It might serve council to ask its communities when such issue arises.

In recent times the memorial hall has been resumed by council.

This puts the Mailbox Committee in the bind of having to ask recent and long-term residents for funds toward the running cost of the mailbox building.

Most Monarto residents are aware that this is not a problem created by the Mailbox Committee and help them out with donations.

Emilis Prelgauskas,
Monarto.

Getting it right

I write in response to Ms Ceri Johns' letter to the editor ("Be prepared to make a stand", Murray Valley Standard, February 5, 2013) and articles published in the February 7, 2013 edition.

I have been in regular contact with Ms Johns and a number of other residents living along the Mannum to Murray Bridge Road who have been living with the effluent odour currently caused by the T&R wastewater lagoons whilst it is in its commissioning phase.

Firstly, can I say I sympathise with Ms Johns and the other residents who are being affected by this ongoing odour.

I have been in regular contact with T&R with the aim to provide open communication lines and continually update and inform those concerned and affected.

The effluent odour problem is the result of the T&R wastewater project being in the commissioning phase of the project.

T&R had plans in place to continue to use the company's original wastewater site, located on the property previously known as

Kuchel's farm, before moving to the new site once the project was operating at 100 per cent and had been completely commissioned.

However, the EPA informed T&R they could no longer use the Kuchel farm site beyond September 2012, prematurely forcing T&R to begin use of the new wastewater project before the organisation intended to.

Under orders, T&R did so in compliance with the Environmental Improvement Program deadline.

My letter to Ceri Johns did not reiterate, or reassure.

It was merely to provide an update I had received from T&R after representing her concerns on her behalf to the company.

T&R are aware of the issue and are working towards the completion of the commissioning of the project.

T&R have informed me plans are in place in order for the odour to be minimised as soon as possible.

Such plans include beginning irrigation early, which experts have advised will dissipate the odour.

'Wobbler' sprinkler heads will also be used to assist this process as well as irrigating on controlled days taking into account such variables as wind patterns.

T&R have also advised me new odour suppressants will be implemented under advice from consultants.

T&R have developed an 'action plan' that has been submitted to the EPA in response to concerns raised by residents living along the Mannum to Murray Bridge Road.

I am meeting with T&R this week to discuss the issue and gain further understanding of the company's 'action plan' in its efforts to control and minimise the odour.

I have also requested a meeting with the EPA to discuss this issue.

I am very concerned that we get this right for two reasons - for the community who are currently living with the odour and for the 1300 T&R staff employed in Murray Bridge.

If anyone has any issues, please feel free to contact the Hammond Electorate office on 8531 1676.

Adrian Pederick,
Member for Hammond.

Facts very clear

The facts could not be clearer.
As confirmed by Murray Darling Basin Authority Chairman Craig Knowles, on Community Radio Station 5EFM on Tuesday, February 5, - when "mother nature" bites hard and extreme drought extends over many years, there comes a time when there is not enough water left in the system for any Basin Plan to drought proof the Lower Lakes.

It is then that the fond notion of sufficient freshwater flows down the river to compensate for evaporative losses in the lakes becomes no more than wishful thinking.

When that happens freshwater lakes are not an option.

The only remaining alternatives are the catastrophic dry down that we saw in recent years or a sea level estuary which keeps the lake beds covered and prevents acid from forming.

Readers interested in hearing my discussion with Craig Knowles can access the podcast at www.makingsenseradio.com.

Trevor Harden,
Clayton Bay.

When will the decision makers realise that people live outside the 'metro' area and also pay taxes.

Bryan Humby,
Murray Bridge.

Second rate freeway

I travel the South Eastern Freeway between Murray Bridge and Mount Barker quite often and it looks like the country people are 'shafted' again.

The resealing taking place on the SE Freeway east of Mt Barker is a coarse, noisy, spray seal coating which makes what used to be a pleasant drive into a torturous exercise.

I challenge anyone travelling on the SE Freeway not to notice the dramatic difference over the previous hotmix bitumen.

While I understand maintainence needs to be done why is it that west of Mt Barker, towards the metropolitan area, any road maintainence/upgrade is done with smooth running, quiet hotmix bitumen.

Apparently we country people don't deserve that!

While it is acceptable that other minor roads within the State are spray resealed in a similar way, this is the SE Freeway, main entrance into Adelaide with a massive amount of traffic.

This must be a really cheap job.

Some interstate people think Adelaide and South Australia are a 'backwater'.

With a main freeway access into Adelaide of this quality it just reinforces their opinion.