

# Report considers wastewater

By **BART MCGANN**

THE Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council has engaged a consultant to investigate the possibility of building a wastewater treatment plant at the Red Hill Waste Facility.

Engineer Michael Wakefield, from URS Corporation Australia, started work on the report on August 31 and will present a draft report to waste management services manager Adam Johnson by October 15.

The proposed plant will cover about one

hectare and include six open concrete tanks to process domestic wastewater from the Parkerville and Stoneville developments.

Mr Wakefield has been engaged to report on a possible location for the treatment plant at the Red Hill site, operational issues and a risk assessment of the current waste facility practices, but he will not investigate financial or commercial considerations.

Both Mr Wakefield and Mr Johnson addressed residents at a community meeting on September 5.

The main concerns expressed were future expansion to service the proposed

Gidgegannup development and possible odour from the plant.

Mr Johnson said the expansion of the plant was a possibility but the proposed development in Gidgegannup was not a consideration at this stage.

"We are making sure we can expand if need be because it is good engineering practise to plan for expansion," he said.

"No one has come to us with a proposal for Gidgegannup yet, but it might be the best place for that plant is in Gidgegannup.

Mr Johnson said if the report found the water treatment plant would compromise

the current operations of the waste facility, regardless of the possible commercial value, it would not go ahead.

Mr Wakefield said there would be odour from the tanks but it was manageable compared to other treatment plants.

"It would be wrong for me to say there will be no odour from the tanks," he said.

"The problem you have with treatment plants in the city is the industry, something you don't have here."

Mr Johnson said the draft report would be available for community input before the final report was completed in November.