

# All tired up over rubbish blazes



**ENOUGH:** This week's dump fire is the fifth at Wingfield.

## **JAMES HETHERINGTON**

A PEAK body in waste management has called on the State Government to investigate the repeated fires occurring at a Wingfield dump, saying "enough is enough".

The South Australian Waste Industry Network, which represents companies including the McMahon Group, Veolia and Resource-Co, says this week's latest fire demands urgent answers that the Environment Protection Authority appeared incapable of delivering.

Firefighters are continuing to battle a large blaze at Adelaide Resource Recovery, which ignited on Monday and sent thick smoke plumes over the northern suburbs.

It is the latest in a long list of fires at Wingfield over the past three years, several of them at Adelaide Resource Recovery.

SA Waste Industry Network secretary John Fetter said it was time for the State Government to act.

"If the EPA doesn't have the powers under current legislation to deal effectively with these issues, then the Government must step in and look at what law reform is needed to get them those powers," he said.

"The inquiry should focus on issues relevant to stockpiling and waste storage at the

Wingfield site, regulation of the site, compliance with licences, fire prevention and management, and the health impacts associated with the fires."

He said the industry required "good policy from Government and a well-funded watchdog with the resources to ensure there is strong enforcement action where needed".

Environment Minister Ian Hunter said reforming the EPA would be more effective than a parliamentary inquiry.

"Directing resources towards the EPA's reform agenda would be more useful than an expensive parliamentary inquiry, but I will be guided by what parliament decides," he said.

"At a waste summit I convened on March 3, improvements to the EPA's legislative and regulatory powers were discussed. I will be giving considerations to all recommendations from the summit."

Opposition environment spokeswoman Michelle Lensink said the Liberals would form a parliamentary committee "to investigate why there have been repeated fires at Wingfield and how they can be prevented". "The local community has been badly let down by the Weatherill Government's ongoing failure to deal with this issue," she said.

Adelaide Resource Recovery declined to comment.