

FOGO REFERENCE GROUP MEETING OUTCOMES STATEMENT - MEETINGS 1 – 4

The *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* contains a headline strategy to implement a consistent three bin kerbside collection system, which includes separation of food organics and garden organics from other waste categories, in all local governments in Perth and Peel by 2025. The Waste Strategy Action Plan includes actions to support this strategy (Actions 2.1- 2.4), including a commitment to develop a plan for a three bin FOGO system rollout (Action 2.3) which is being led by the Waste Authority.

Central to its role in implementing Action 2.3, the Waste Authority is committed to:

- maintaining a rollout schedule of local government FOGO services (including projected FOGO generation rates) to inform FOGO planning and projects;
- facilitating actions to match processing capacity with expected FOGO generation rates (encouraging appropriate processing capacity); and,
- facilitating market development for FOGO derived products.

At its October 2019 meeting, the Waste Authority agreed to establish a FOGO Reference Group to provide advice to the Authority on Action 2.3.

MEETING 1 – 11 DECEMBER 2019

The FOGO Reference Group supports Action 2.3 and advises the Waste Authority on key issues. The Reference Group provides an opportunity for key stakeholders to represent the views of their sector and contribute to the successful rollout of three bin FOGO services.

The FOGO Reference Group was formally established at its first meeting held on 11 December 2019. At this meeting, the Group commenced discussions to inform a FOGO rollout plan as per Action 2.3 in the Waste Strategy Action Plan.

MEETING 2 - 5 FEBRUARY 2020

The second meeting of the FOGO Reference Group was held on 5 February 2020.

Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO

The Group was provided with an update on the *Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO* program and the *Better practice FOGO kerbside collection guidelines*.

WasteSorted Toolkit

Information was provided to the Group on the WasteSorted toolkit including FOGO materials that local governments can use when communicating FOGO services.

What goes in the FOGO Bin

Discussions commenced about what materials can and can't be put in the FOGO bin.

Market Development Strategy

To assist in the development of markets it was proposed that, subject to approval and funding, a market development study be undertaken to identify local FOGO market opportunities and key issues, barriers or actions required to access those markets.

FOGO Forum

The group discussed the FOGO Forum to inform key FOGO stakeholders of FOGO issues and experiences. The Forum will include presentations from a range of speakers from different perspectives.

MEETING 3 – 8 APRIL 2020

The third meeting of the FOGO Reference Group was held on 8 April 2020.

Market Development Strategy

The Group discussed details of a proposed market development strategy (subject to approval and funding in the Waste Authority's 2020-21 Business Plan) to ensure that market development actions pursued to 2025 are targeted to the markets or sectors that have the greatest potential to use significant quantities of FOGO derived products, and the greatest potential in supporting the objectives and targets in the Waste Strategy.

Composting Facilities

DWER provided a register of facilities potentially suitable for managing FOGO, to inform discussions about processing.

DWER Composting Guidelines

The Group discussed the DWER Composting Guidelines and supported the release of the Guidelines for consultation. The Group expressed support for a long consultation period to accommodate new priorities in light of COVID-19.

Caddy Liners

The group discussed the issue of kitchen caddy liners, including:

- the extent to which different liners break down in the composting process
- the potential for households to use the wrong liners which potentially contaminate the FOGO stream.

What goes in the FOGO Bin

The Group discussed a list of materials suitable for disposal in the FOGO bin. The list is intended to support more consistent communications about correct disposal behaviours.

EMRC Business Model

The EMRC Business Model was presented to the Group. The Group discussed opportunities for non-EMRC local governments to use the tool to support a cost benefit analysis of FOGO services.

MEETING 4 – 17 JUNE 2020

The fourth meeting of the FOGO Reference Group was held on 17 June 2020.

FOGO Forum – discussion and next steps

The Group discussed the FOGO Forum key issues raised during the sessions and potential next steps.

FOGO Rollout Plan

The Group was advised that the FOGO Rollout Plan was endorsed by the Waste Authority on 5 May 2020. The Plan includes funded actions (including Better Bins Plus and a Market Development Strategy) which require approval as part of the Waste Authority's business planning process. It is intended that the FOGO Rollout Plan will be published on the Waste Authority website following approval of the Waste Authority Business Plan 2020-21.

Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO program and better practice FOGO kerbside collection guidelines

The Group was advised that the \$20 million **Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO** program was announced by Hon Stephen Dawson, Minister for Environment on 5 May 2020. Better Bins

Plus supports the transition to better practice, high performing three bin FOGO kerbside collection services. The program provides funding to local governments that delivery kerbside services consistent with the *Better practice FOGO kerbside collection guidelines*.

EMRC Business Model

The Group continued discussions about how it could support and encourage the use of the EMRC Business Model by local governments.

Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs)

The Group considered actions to support the provision of FOGO services to multi-unit dwellings.

Better Practice Composting Guidelines

The Group was informed that the DWER Composting Guideline was released for consultation. The guideline sets out the department's information requirements for the composting industry and how regulation under Part V of the EP Act will achieve the objectives of the Waste Strategy.

The consultation period is now open and will run until 25 November 2020.

<https://consult.dwer.wa.gov.au/regulatory-capability/draft-guideline-better-practice-composting/>

APCO Compostable Plastics Packaging paper

The Reference Group considered the guideline: *Considerations for Compostable Plastic Packaging* which was published in May 2020. The guideline was developed by the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) in partnership with Australasian Bioplastics Association (ABA) and the Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA).

This purpose of the document is to help Australian industry professionals - particularly brand owners, packaging technologists and designers, and food service providers - decide when and where to use certified compostable plastic packaging. The guideline identifies potential applications and opportunities for certified compostable plastic packaging, based on the systems and infrastructure currently available.

The guideline is available on the APCO website:

<https://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/industry-resources>.

What can I put in my FOGO Bin

The Group continued its discussions about a list of materials suitable for disposing to a FOGO bin. The Group agreed to produce:

- a short list to simplify communications and ensure a consistent approach
- a longer list of materials for use in tenders/contracts.

FOGO Reference Group

The Group agreed to broaden its membership to ensure key stakeholders are represented. The Group also agreed to post this meeting outcomes statement on the Waste Authority website.