

FOGO REFERENCE GROUP MEETING OUTCOMES STATEMENT – MEETING 10 - 13 OCTOBER 2021

The tenth meeting of the FOGO Reference Group was held on 13 October 2021.

FOGO Rollout Plan 2021-22

The Group was provided with updates against the commitments in the FOGO Rollout Plan 2021-22.

Australian Bioplastics Association

Mr Rowan Williams, President of the Australasian Bioplastics Association (ABA), presented to the Group and answered questions on the role of ABA in ensuring the compostability of bioplastics in FOGO processing systems. ABA manages the only verification program in Australia and New Zealand for verification against the requirements of the Australian Standards for commercial and home composting (AS 4736-2006 and AS 5810-2010). ABA maintains that plastic bags/package products which carry the AS4736 looped seedling logo or the AS5810 home compostable logo will disintegrate and biodegrade in a composting cycle with no adverse effect on compost quality.

FOGO Market Development Strategy

The Group discussed recommended actions from the Market Development Strategy for FOGO Derived Products prepared by GHD Pty Ltd. Members provided a range of comments on the Strategy and agreed that comments would be compiled in a response document. Both the Strategy and response document would be considered in future market development discussions.

The Group discussed advice to the Waste Authority on priority market development actions for potential funding (noting \$70,000 allocated in the Waste Authority's Business Plan 2021-22). Members confirmed the importance of managing contamination to support markets and noted that contamination needed to be managed across the supply chain – including residents, local governments and processors. The Group discussed opportunities to develop contamination guidance, and to embed (or refer to) the guidance in other initiatives such as better practice contracting guidelines, procurement commitments, product trials and education materials.

Step-by-Step Guide

The Group discussed the FOGO Step-by-Step Guide which was nearing completion. The Guide will support planning, implementation and monitoring of better practice FOGO services. The Guide is being finalised and is expected to be published on the Waste Authority website.

Impacts and benefits of kerbside collection systems

The Group discussed a report being developed by MRA Consulting on the impacts and benefits of different kerbside systems for Perth and Peel (unpublished). The Group noted that the Waste Authority requested the report be updated to include an assessment of GO (garden organics) systems. The report will help to provide a better understanding of the range of impacts and benefits of FOGO services with reference to the Waste Strategy.

FOGO Information Session

The Group provided input into a proposed FOGO information session scheduled for late 2021. The Group discussed the format, timing, potential topics and key speakers.

Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund

The Group noted that the Australian Government committed \$67 million in the 2021-22 Federal Budget to the management of organic waste, the centre piece of which, is the \$59.8 million Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund. The Group noted that the fund relied on matched funding by state/territory governments and third parties (proponents) and that the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation was actively exploring options for how the State can participate post the setting of 2021-22 budgets.

Composting Guidelines

DWER provided the Group with an update on the release of the *Guideline - Better Practice: Organics Recycling* (formerly the *Guideline: Better Practice Composting*).

Composting Facilities

DWER provided the Group with an updated register of FOGO licensed facilities to inform discussions about available and planned processing capacity.

FOGO Projections

The Group discussed updated FOGO projections, including the estimated FOGO commencement date by local governments (Perth and Peel). The estimated local government commencement date is used to project FOGO generation rates, processing capacity requirements and FOGO outputs. The estimates support discussions on FOGO processing issues and market development.