

DCS412 FOOD ORGANIC AND GARDEN ORGANIC (FOGO) TRIAL

AGENDA REFERENCE:	D-19-030701
AUTHOR:	H Williamson, Coordinator Environmental Health and Waste
EXECUTIVE:	P Melling, Director Development and Community Services
DATE OF REPORT:	8 May 2019
FILE REFERENCE:	WM/9/0005-02
ATTACHMENTS:	Yes (x2) 1 x Confidential A. State Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 B. Confidential Attachment - Preliminary FOGO Feasibility Assessment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to undertake a Food Organic and Garden Organic (FOGO) kerbside collection trial involving 500 households over a 12 month period.

EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION:

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to Section 5.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

1. SUPPORT the implementation of the Food Organic and Garden Organic kerbside collection trial involving 500 households over a 12 month period; and
2. LIST for consideration in the proposed 2019-2020 budget.

PROPONENT:

The proponent is the City of Greater Geraldton.

BACKGROUND:

The State's Waste Strategy 2030 was released in February 2019 with a headline strategy for all Local Governments in the Perth and Peel region to provide a kerbside collection system that includes separation of FOGO waste from other waste categories by 2025. The State Strategy recovery objective sets out community recovery targets to increase Municipal Solid Waste material recovery by 50% in major regional centres by 2020, 55% by 2025 and 60% by 2030. The State Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy is included as Attachment No. DCS412A.

The State Waste Authority annually reports on Local Governments kerbside diversion performance via the State's My Council website. The City's current performance rating is 0% due to the City not undertaking any kerbside recycling programs. Modelling suggests that our current waste stream is made up of approximately 48% FOGO material. Introducing a FOGO kerbside program has the potential to increase the City's performance rate to 35 - 45% depending on contamination rates.

Since the implementation of the State Waste Strategy the City engaged Talis Waste Consultants to undertake a Preliminary FOGO Feasibility Assessment. This report addresses implementation of a Kerbside FOGO collection on a trial basis and provides

steps to develop a business case to determine if a full roll out of the program is sustainable. The Preliminary FOGO Feasibility Assessment is included as Confidential Attachment No. DCS412B.

The Talis report provides four different scenarios to undertake a trial program and suggests scenario 4, a trial of 1,000 households over a 12 month period, provides best value for money per household, although the total cost is higher. However it is recommended that scenario 3 of 500 households over 12 month period is the preferred option for the trial mainly due to the cost difference and the smaller number of services required yet still enables quality data to be generated for analysis.

The 500 households to be involved in the program will be randomly selected across several suburbs within the City. The random selection of households is to ensure that the program provides realistic data on resident's behaviour and uptake of the program. Involving only those who volunteer for the program has the potential to skew the data and not provide a realistic view of all recycling behaviours within the City. It will also give the City a better understanding of the education program requirements and level of contamination the program will generate to assist in determining if a full roll out is feasible.

In regard to processing the FOGO waste during the trial a static pile composting method is the preferred option as there is little initial capital set up but will produce an end product to an acceptable standard. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) have informed the City that the FOGO waste must be stored on a lined or hardstand area to reduce the leaching of run off into the groundwater.

It is proposed that the static piles will be processed within the new cell 5 area whilst the current waste cells are continuing to operate until capacity is reached within the next one to two years. This is only an interim measure during the 12 month program to allow the City to understand the capital requirements of the program to produce an end product that is marketable to the local community.

The Preliminary FOGO Feasibility Assessment report provides a cost estimate for the recommended scenario 3 trial of \$247,612. This equates to approximately \$15 per household for the 2019-2020 period. The cost of scenario 3 trial includes 500 weekly FOGO bin collections and fortnightly rubbish bin collections, processing costs, 500 new wheelie bins for each household, and education program including staff and materials.

Further analysis is required during the trial to determine actual cost for a full roll out of the program and would be presented in a business case for further consideration.

COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES:

Community:

The properties selected in the trial will be required to participate in the program by partaking in the education program available and by separating items into the correct bins to reduce contamination.

Environment:

There are significant positive impacts to the environment by diverting waste from landfill and reusing the end product to create a circular economy. A circular economy is one of the guiding concepts outlined in the State Waste Strategy 2030 to assist with creating local recycling solutions.

The City will need to submit a license amendment approval to DWER as per the Environmental Protection Act 1986 in order to adhere to license conditions for protecting the environment.

Economy:

A FOGO service if implemented carefully can save money and increase diversion from landfill. If the trial is successful the program could have significant long-term financial benefits by reducing disposal to landfill costs and by creating employment opportunities.

Governance:

The City will be engaging all contractors under current collection and landfill contracts as per the City's Procurement of Goods and Services policy.

Disclosure of Interest:

No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has a declarable interest in this matter.

RELEVANT PRECEDENTS:

There are no relevant precedents.

COMMUNITY/COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION:

There has been no community consultation but City staff have engaged with Councillors through the Mayors monthly concept forum.

LEGISLATIVE/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The City must adhere to its landfill License conditions under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. The City has a category 67A license to compost manufacturing and soil blending for 20,000 tonnes per annum but an updated license approval will be required for submission to DWER. The modelling predicts the program will process approximately 10,000 tonnes per annum.

Implementing the program is in line with the State Waste Strategy recovery targets to increase municipal solid waste material recovery to 50% in major regional centres by 2020.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The recommended scenario 3 of 500 households over a 12 month period from the Preliminary FOGO Feasibility Assessment report states that the total trial cost for 500 households over a 12 month period is \$247,612.

The cost of the 12 month trial includes the following items:

- Weekly FOGO collection for 500 households;
- Fortnightly rubbish collection;

- 500 new lime green bins;
- Waste Education Officer;
- Education packs including a kitchen caddies and initial supply of composting bags for all trial households;
- Two bin tagging staff (3 hours per fortnight);
- Two manual waste sorters (1 day per week); and
- Front end loader for processing (1 day per week).

INTEGRATED PLANNING LINKS:

Title: Environment	2.2 Sustainability
Strategy 2.2.1	Promoting, researching and implementing practices such as improved and innovative waste management, water reuse and renewable energy production.
Strategy 2.2.2	Researching, promoting and providing sustainable infrastructure, services and utilities.

REGIONAL OUTCOMES:

The positive impacts on the region will be that all regional users of the facility can drop off waste that will enter the FOGO system. The end compost product could be used on agricultural, commercial and residential properties across the Midwest.

RISK MANAGEMENT:

To reduce contamination rates of the FOGO waste to be processed the trial includes an education officer to undertake an education program with the involved households. This education program will include a bin tagging assessment that provides direct feedback on the content of waste by placing a tag on each households' bin to indicate if the contents are correct.

To ensure the trial results are not skewed in anyway the 500 households involved in the trial will be randomly selected from a range of suburbs across the City. This will provide the trial with realistic data regarding overall participation rates and contamination levels to assist in determining if a full roll out is feasible.

The current Meru landfill has DWER license approval to undertake compost and soil blending processes at the site, but requires the operational management plan to be updated and approved before undertaking the program through a license amendment process. The site is also subject to strict buffer distances from residential properties in order to reduce impacts to the surrounding sites.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY CITY OFFICERS:

The following options were considered by City Officers:

1. Do not undertake the FOGO kerbside program trial and fail to meet the recovery targets set out by the State Waste Strategy 2030 and continue to have the State report that the City has 0% kerbside diversion rate.
2. Undertake FOGO trial as per scenario 1 outlined in the Preliminary FOGO Feasibility Assessment of 500 households over six months. This scenario doesn't allow enough time to provide a thorough understanding of the end compost product.

3. Undertake FOGO trial as per scenario 2 outlined in the Preliminary FOGO Feasibility Assessment of 1,000 households over six months. This scenario doesn't allow enough time to provide a thorough understanding of the end compost product.
4. Undertake FOGO trial as per scenario 4 outlined in the Preliminary FOGO Feasibility Assessment of 1,000 households over a 12 month period. This number of households increases the cost to the program and the lower number of households in scenario 3 over a 12 month period still provides enough statistical relevance to make assumptions for determining a full roll out of the program.

COUNCIL DECISION

MOVED CR FREER, SECONDED CR BYLUND

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to Section 5.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

1. **SUPPORT the implementation of the Food Organic and Garden Organic kerbside collection trial involving 500 households over a 12 month period; and**
2. **LIST for consideration in the proposed 2019-2020 budget.**

CARRIED 13/1

Time: 6:11 PM

Not Voted: 1

No Votes: 1

Yes Votes: 13

Name	Vote
Cr. Douglas	YES
Cr. Bylund	YES
Cr. Caudwell	YES
Cr. Colliver	YES
Cr. Clune	YES
Cr. Critch	YES
Cr. Freer	YES
Cr. Elphick	YES
Cr. Hall	YES
Cr. Keemink	YES
Cr. McIlwaine	NOT PRESENT
Cr. Reymond	YES
Cr. Tanti	NO
Cr. Thomas	YES
Mayor Van Styn	YES