



Sustainability Advisory Committee

Tuesday 19 September 2023

**Council Chambers
209 Comur Street, Yass**

ATTACHMENTS TO REPORTS

Sustainability Advisory Committee

Attachments to Reports

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DRAFT DISCUSSION PAPER - FOOD ORGANICS & GARDEN ORGANIC (FOGO)

1. Background

FOGO has been mandated to be introduced by 2030.

The current waste streams for domestic waste in Yass Valley comprise of:

- **General waste** (both kerbside collection and delivery to waste transfer stations) is approximately 6,600 tonnes per year
- **Kerbside recycling** generates approximately 800 tonnes per year
- **Green waste** delivered by residents to the Yass and Murrumbateman Waste Transfer Stations is approximately 9,000m³ or 5.6 tonnes per year

Regional statistics discussed at waste meetings indicate an estimated average of up to 20% of food organics could be diverted from general waste streams (regional areas possibly less). On the above assumption in Yass Valley this represents a 132 tonne reduction in general waste to landfill. Any landfill savings would be met with FOGO processing and transporting costs.

In March 2020 Council considered the introduction of a FOGO service (refer attached report). The estimated cost at the time was a \$108 increase in waste charges to each household receiving a kerbside collection.

2. Food Organics & Garden Organic (FOGO)

The Sustainability Advisory Committee has identified the design of a FOGO service as a priority.

In April 2023 the Committee prepared 35 threshold questions. While interesting, not all are essential for the design of a FOGO service and a more pragmatic approach is suggested.

Broadly the design of a FOGO service involves:

- Collection
- Processing
- Product Use
- Consultation

2.1. Collection

It is acknowledged that removing food and garden organics from the general waste stream will result in less waste going to landfill which in turn prolongs the life of the landfill.

There are broadly two options to collect food and garden organics i.e.

- Kerbside collection
- Rely on landowners to take food/garden waste to the Waste Transfer Station

There is a hybrid option of providing a kerbside collection in towns and villages while allowing rural residents to deliver food and garden organics to the waste transfer station.

Each option provides an acceptable method of collection and a description is as follows:

2.1.1 Kerbside Collection

A 240 litre wheelie bin seems to be the typical size for green waste.

In regional areas the combination of kerbside collection bins is usually:

- Red Lid 140 litre bin for general waste
- Yellow Lid 240 litre bin for recyclables
- Green Lid 240 litre bin for green waste

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The cost of introducing a green waste collection can simply be determined by:

- The number of households already receiving a kerbside collection
- The cost of green lid bins
- The cost of a collection truck and crew costs
- Disposal costs

In 2020 the estimated cost was \$108 per household per year

2.1.2 Resident Delivery to Waste Transfer Station

The cost of collection is borne by each household (e.g. trailer and transport costs). However not all households can deliver green waste to the transfer station – these people are either continuing with their own composting and/or placing material with general waste collection.

The costs associated with this option are:

- Mulching green waste at transfer station
- Transport of green waste to an authorised processing facility

2.2 Processing

Once waste is collected there are two options for processing i.e.

- Establish a composting facility (either as a stand alone or in conjunction with neighbouring Councils)
- Transfer green waste to an existing processing facility

2.2.1 New Processing Facility

Establishing a new processing facility in Yass Valley or in a neighbouring Council area involves:

- Site selection and acquisition
- Preparation of EIS
- Obtaining regulatory approvals (DA and EPA licencing)
- Construction and ongoing operation

Such a facility is unlikely to be delivered and operated by the private sector unless the quantity of green waste generated in the area is sufficient to make it profitable. Operation by a Local Council is more likely and either all the costs (or a proportion of the costs if another LGA is involved) passed on to Yass Valley residents.

A green waste processing facility is dependant upon having a proposed use for the organic material. For Yass Valley the potential options are:

- Agricultural use
- Council use
- Martins Fertilizers

Contamination control and meeting relevant standards for use are the major challenge. The treatment costs to meet these requirements would also be a cost passed onto Yass Valley residents.

2.2.2 Transfer to Existing Facility

Transferring green waste to an existing facility removes the need for Council to establish a facility. In 2020 the estimated cost of transferring green waste was \$172,800 plus additional transport costs of \$28,600.

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There are three options in the vicinity of Yass Valley i.e.

- Veolia Bioreactor Site at Tarago (in Goulburn Mulwaree LGA)
- ACT Composting
- Landtasia site at Mulloon (in Queanbeyan Palerang LGA))

The capacity of these facilities to receive green waste from Yass Valley needs to be determined along with the need to adjust any approvals/licences to receive material from Yass Valley. There is likely to be a cost to access these facilities which would need to be passed onto Yass Valley residents.

Also, these facilities may need some assurances of the quality of the green waste being transfer which may require processing at the waste transfer station.

3. Product Use

Although potential users have been identified, taking FOGO to an authorise facility means that Council is not involved in processing, nor is it involved with finding end user markets as this is part of the facility's business model.

Council would only need to be involved with finding end users of processed FOGO if it was involved in operating a processing facility

Any Council use of processed FOGO could be purchased from the processor and transported back to Yass Valley.

4. Consultation

With any changes to the waste management service there needs to be consultation with the wider community. This could be a three step process i.e.

1. Undertake prior to the release of any options a community survey (e.g. online) and/or a small group discussion (comprising randomly selected residents) on:
 - The legislative need to introduce a FOGO service
 - Whether this is something they would participate in
 - What would the service look like
2. Develop or refine options based on the community comments and undertake an online poll of community preferences
3. Once a preferred service design has been selected, develop an education campaign on how to use.

4. Conclusion

Extending the existing kerbside collection to include FOGO represents a simple and easiest option. Residents not receiving a kerbside service can continue to dispose of their green waste directly at the nearest waste transfer stations at Yass and Murrumbateman.

It is recommended that:

- Use the Discussion Paper as the basis for Council undertaking a community survey and/or small group discussions on FOGO and what the service could look like
- Options be developed for a FOGO service based on community comments and waste staff input
- The community be consulted on the proposed FOGO service options
- A prefer FOGO service option be selected for Council consideration
- The preferred FOGO option be implemented along with a community education campaign on how to use the service

7.4 FOOD AND ORGANICS WASTE RECYCLING

SUMMARY

This report is to present options in regards to the possible kerbside collection of green waste or food and organics waste within the current domestic collection service areas.

RECOMMENDATION

That a survey be undertaken of the current domestic collection serve areas to determine whether the introduction of such a service (and the approximate costs) would be favourably received and the results of this survey be brought back to Council for further consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The collection of green waste or food organics and green organics waste is costed through Council waste management budget lines in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act and its associated regulations. Financial implications associated with various options are noted within the report.

POLICY & LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993*

REPORT

1. Background

Prior to 2003 Council provided a recycling services using a single 240lt bin with a divider, with recycling one side and waste the other side, providing a weekly service of 120lt waste and 120lt recycling. In 2003 Council introduced the current two waste bin collection service to coincide with closing the in-house 'material recycling processing line' and commenced transporting recycling to Hume. A 140lt waste bin was also distributed with the original 240lt bin converted to a fortnightly recycling collection. These services did not include a separate green waste collection service with green waste collected though the domestic waste service and disposed of to land fill or through a pay-as-you-go service at Council's transfer stations.

In 2008 Council purchased a second collection vehicle to deal with increased demand.

In 2013 Council upgraded the collection vehicles to again cater for greater demand for the service.

Two new vehicles were leased in 2019 and currently collect a total of 6,230 bins per week, being 4,213 garbage bins and 2,107 recycle bins. While there is some capacity to extend and add to the existing service this is being taken up by increased demand with around 100 new services each year from growth in Yass & Murrumbateman and surrounds.

In 2018 requested were received to investigate green waste or Food Organics and Green Organics (FOGO) waste collection within the current domestic waste collection areas noting that green waste or FOGO collection services are not listed in the 2016/2020 Community Strategic Plan.

2. Current Situation

Currently green waste is delivered by residents to waste transfer stations for disposal and processing. Yass and Murrumbateman transfer stations receive the highest quantities of green waste. An average, each year Council mulches approximately 12,000 m³ of product which includes general garden waste, lawn clippings and tree branches.

This equates to approximately 1½, 6' x 4' trailer loads per household per year, or the equivalent of each household producing 6 x 240lt garbage bins for collection yearly.

3. Options

In order to provide a green waste/FOGO kerbside collection service Council would need to provide third collection bin to avoid contamination with domestic and other recyclable materials. Additionally other available processing facilities would be required.

3.1 Option 1 – Green Waste Collection only

This option requires the provision of a Green Waste only (3rd bin) collection to current kerbside recipients.

Currently 4,213 households receiving a kerbside service at an annual charge of \$397 per household (2019/20 Fees and Charges). The provision of a third bin for this service would require the following in addition to the annual domestic collection charge:

3.1.1 Infrastructure Requirements (Options 1, 2 and 3 only)

Initial capital start-up costs would include the capital purchase of the following:

• Additional Side-Load truck	\$ 390,000 Ex GST
• 4,213 240lt Green waste Bins	\$ 236,000 Ex GST
Total	\$ 626,000

3.1.2 Operational Expenses

• Truck Lease Payment	\$ 88,000	
• Wages (incl on costs)	\$ 66,500	* based on 5 days per fortnight (42.5 hrs)
• Vehicle running costs	\$ 65,000	
• Amortization cost of Bins	\$ 27,200	* over 5 years
• Registration & Insurance	\$ 6,000	
• Mulching Green Waste only	\$ 96,000	* based on 12,000m ³
Total	\$ 348,700	

Cost for collection per annum \$82.77

Residents not receiving kerbside collection would continue to dispose of their green waste direct to nearest transfer station on a pay as you go basis and there would be no alteration to that service.

3.2 Option 2 - Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO)

This option requires the provision of a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) (3rd bin) collection to current kerbside recipients

This option requires Council to transport FOGO products to the nearest processing facility located in either Canberra or Goulburn. The long term viability as to acceptance of this material and associated costs to disposed have not been determined but have been estimated for the purposes of this report. These estimates are considered reasonable.

The provision of a third bin for this service would require the following in addition to the annual domestic collection charge:

3.2.1 To Collect and Process FOGO

• Truck Lease Payment	\$ 88,000	
• Wages (incl on-costs)	\$ 66,500	* based on 5 days per fortnight (42.5 hrs)
• Vehicle running costs	\$ 65,000	

