

# Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) Program

## *Facts about our NEW FOGO Program*

The Central Coast Council will be introducing a FOGO kerbside service for residents in existing domestic waste and recycling kerbside collection areas in October 2019. This will be the first FOGO service in the North West Region of Tasmania and processing of the collected waste will take place in Launceston, although we hope in time that this will take place at Dulverton as more North West councils join the program.

### ***What is FOGO waste?***

FOGO is the abbreviation of Food Organics and Garden Organics and simply means any 'organic' product from food or the garden. In effect, if it was once alive or was grown, then it is likely to have an organic composition.

### ***What does this mean for me?***

The new FOGO kerbside collection service will provide a convenient and environmentally friendly way to dispose of your organic waste, significantly reducing the amount of waste going to landfill and providing additional waste collection capacity to our residents.

### ***What CAN I put in my FOGO bin?***

Residents will be provided with a 240L wheelie bin for the fortnightly collection of garden and food organic waste.

Materials that you can place in your bin for collection include:

- . Food scraps – fruit, vegetables, meat (including raw or cooked bones), seafood, chicken, bread, egg and egg shells, dairy products, rice, pasta, cereals, coffee grounds and tea bags.
- . Garden waste – grass clippings, flowers, weeds, herbs, small branches and leaves.
- . Personal cuttings – hair and nails (and skin).
- . Animal waste – organic kitty litter and soiled paper from bird cages.
- . Paper products – shredded paper, paper towels, paper napkins, tissues and food contaminated cardboard, e.g. food contaminated pizza boxes.

### ***What CAN'T I put in my FOGO bin?***

A quick rule of thumb is...if it won't decompose, then don't put it in the bin.

This means **NO**:

- . Plastics (not even degradable plastic bags);
- . Nappies;
- . Fabric (e.g. clothing);
- . Hard waste or broken household items;
- . Plastic take-away containers;
- . Hazardous or contaminated waste;
- . Thick branches; and
- . Nothing that is currently allowed to go in your recycling bin.

### ***What are the benefits to Central Coast residents?***

The new FOGO collection service for most residents will reduce the amount of waste that goes into your domestic waste bin. This will no doubt be very convenient if you have difficulty fitting your waste into your existing bin.

If you compost waste for environmental reasons, a FOGO collection service will help you to responsibly dispose of material you wouldn't normally compost at home, like dog poo or meat scraps, which can attract vermin.

If you currently take green waste to the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre, you may no longer need to make those trips, saving you money and time. If you generate a lot of garden waste, e.g. grass clippings, tree and shrub prunings, you can spread it across multiple collections, and still take the amount that won't fit in your bin to the RRC yourself or pay to use a private green waste collection service.

### ***Why collect and process FOGO waste?***

Approximately half of the contents of the average Australian household waste bin consists of organic material and in our case, this goes into the landfill at Dulverton.

'Any organic waste dumped into landfill undergoes anaerobic decomposition and generates methane' a 'greenhouse gas which is considered 23 times more damaging to the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. Collection of organic material from a home can also reduce bushfire risk to homes through reduction of household fuel loads.'

'In addition to the environmental benefits from greenhouse gas emission reductions, the moisture content of organics contributes greatly to the creation of leachate, a management problem for landfills everywhere and a threat to ground and surface water quality'.

The Council believes that there are both environmental and economic benefits in having a FOGO kerbside collection service, e.g. reducing methane emissions to the atmosphere and reducing the amount of waste delivered to the Dulverton landfill.

### ***Will the FOGO bin smell?***

No, it shouldn't if managed appropriately.

Evidence from other councils suggests that this is not generally a problem due to Tasmania's cooler climate. However, there are other steps that you can take to ensure there is no smell emanating from your bin. As one example, combining food and garden waste considerably reduces the impacts of odour from food waste.

We will provide other important tips on helping to resolve odour issues from your bin should they occur in our forthcoming information program.

### ***What happens to the FOGO waste after it has been collected from my property?***

The organic waste will be transported to a processing facility where it will be mulched together and broken down into compost in a system that makes sure there is enough oxygen for aerobic decomposition. This results in a compost product that is suitable for agricultural and domestic garden use.

### ***When will the service be rolled out?***

The FOGO kerbside service will commence in October 2019.

The 240L wheelie bins will be delivered in September, along with further information prior to the collection service starting.

In conjunction with the introduction of this new service and as a result of the reduction of the quantity of waste in the domestic waste bin, our existing domestic waste collection service will reduce from being weekly to become a fortnightly service which will alternate with the new FOGO kerbside service.

To ensure that you are aware of all of the details of the FOGO kerbside service, keep an eye out for more information on the Council's website, E-Newsletter and Facebook page or as advertised in The Advocate and the Central Coast Voice.

### ***What will it cost? Will my rates go up?***

The cost of providing the FOGO kerbside service is estimated to be in the order of \$2 per week per rateable property. As the domestic waste kerbside service will become a fortnightly service it will cost less to operate and so the net effect is expected to be an increase in the order to \$1.25 per week or less per rateable property.

The Council has not yet determined exactly how much it will cost for the overall kerbside waste collection services, i.e. Domestic Waste, Recycling and FOGO and will make this decision as part of setting the rates and fees and charges in June 2019.

***Who will receive the service? Can I opt-in or opt-out?***

The new FOGO kerbside service will be provided to all residents within the current waste collections areas within the Central Coast municipal area. This will ensure that it is a cost-effective service but also achieves the expected landfill reductions.

The Council has seriously considered difficulties people might experience with this new service and will work particularly with people with special needs, such as those living in unit complexes, to ensure that the collection arrangements are suitable.

***Do other Tasmanian Councils provide a FOGO kerbside service for their residents?***

Yes. Launceston, Meander Valley and West Tamar councils currently provide a FOGO service. Glenorchy City Council will commence their new FOGO kerbside service at the beginning of 2020.

Hobart City Council currently provides a green waste collection service and is planning to upgrade to a FOGO service in the future.

Many interstate and overseas councils are providing FOGO services.

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**This fact sheet has attempted to provide as many answers to your initial questions as possible without going into considerable detail. The Council is currently finalising details for the new program and will be releasing these over the next two months.**

We will also be arranging information sessions on the new FOGO kerbside service and will let you know when and where these will be held once the program details are finalised.

***17 April 2019***