

Item No: C11/22-190

## **RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION - FOOD ORGANICS GARDEN ORGANICS (FOGO)**

Responsible Division: Environment & Planning  
Officer: Director Environment & Planning  
File Number: SC488  
Community Strategic Plan Goal: *Enhancing the Natural and Built Environment*

### **SUMMARY**

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This report provides a response to the Notice of Motion – Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 18 May 2022 (Min.094). It is recommended that Council endorse a trial program for the implementation of FOGO services in Cumberland.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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**That Council endorse a trial program for the implementation of Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) services in Cumberland, as outlined in this report.**

### **REPORT**

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#### ***Background***

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 18 May 2022, a Notice of Motion (Min.094) was raised regarding the development of a trial program to the implementation of a Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) service across the Cumberland area. In considering this item, Council resolved the following:

*“That a report is provided back to Council on developing a trial program in regard to the implementation of a Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) service across the Cumberland area.”*

#### ***Food Organic Garden Organic (FOGO) Implementation***

Cumberland City currently offers garden organic recycling service across Cumberland. As part of the *NSW Government’s Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041*, the NSW Government has mandated the separation of food and garden organics for household and selected businesses by 2030. It is estimated that up to 54% of food and garden organics in single dwellings in Cumberland could be separated, processed, and diverted from landfill.

To ensure alignment with NSW Government policy, Council officers have undertaken preliminary planning on the approach to implement FOGO services in Cumberland.

Some key elements have been identified that need to be completed beforehand to ensure the successful implementation of a FOGO service, such as:

- Entering into contracts that allow for FOGO collections and processing
- Purchase, supply and delivery of approximately 10,000 green bins to households currently without a green bin (primarily in the former Holroyd City Council area)
- Deliver a comprehensive education and engagement campaign about the new FOGO service across Cumberland to enable uptake and successful implementation.

In response to these elements, the following activities are underway to support the implementation of FOGO:

- New contracts and/or extensions for Council waste contracts are designed to provide options that can facilitate the collection and disposal of FOGO material
- Council officers are investigating grant opportunities to fund the purchase of approximately 10,000 green bins, and will progress these opportunities when available
- Council officers are liaising with other Councils and using previous experience with earlier resource recovery education campaigns to progress the planning and delivery of a comprehensive engagement and education campaign.

Given the large number of households in Cumberland and the lead time required to fully implement a FOGO service, it is anticipated that a full implementation could not be undertaken until the year 2026 at the earliest. This is ahead of the NSW Government's policy requirement of 2030.

As a first step towards progressing a FOGO service by Council, a two staged trial program is proposed that can be undertaken over the next three years. The components of the trial program include:

- Stage 1: Small scale trial to test and validate service design. This would be undertaken with up to 100 households, selected through an Expression of Interest process. This stage of the trial would be undertaken during 2023.
- Stage 2: Larger scale trial with up to 1,000 households in response to the results of the small-scale trial and completion of missing elements to enable a FOGO service to be provided, such as the full provision of green bins. This stage of the trial would be prepared in 2024 and implemented in 2025.

It is recommended that Council endorse the trial program for the implementation of FOGO services in Cumberland.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Subject to Council endorsement of the trial program, a comprehensive community engagement and education program would be undertaken as part of the trial of FOGO services in Cumberland. This approach would build on earlier work undertaken for previous resource recovery campaigns by Council, learnings from other Councils on the introduction of FOGO services, and information provided by the NSW Government on the topic.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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The FOGO trial and implementation supports delivery of Council's *Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2018-23*, specifically Key Focus Area 2: Increase recycling and divert more waste from landfill.

The trial program also aligns with the strategic directions regarding the separation of food and garden organics for household as outlined in the *NSW Government's Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041*.

## RISK IMPLICATIONS

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The introduction of a trial program for FOGO services minimises risk to Council by ensuring that costs and implementation considerations are better understood and refined prior to any final decisions on the full implementation of a FOGO service.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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Costs associated with the trial and implementation can be covered under the Domestic Waste Budget and is estimated to be \$250,000. Opportunities for costs to be offset through grant opportunities will also be considered.

## CONCLUSION

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In response to Council's Notice of Motion in May 2022 regarding FOGO services, it is recommended that Council endorse a trial program for the implementation of FOGO services in Cumberland.

## ATTACHMENTS

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Nil