



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair), Mark Parton MLA

Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Nicole Lawder MLA:

Ref: Budget Paper H, Page 27

In relation to: Proposed Food Organic and Garden Organic (FOGO) Facility

1. Has a preferred FOGO facility site location been chosen?
 - a. If so, on what basis was this site selected?
2. Has the ACT Government been provided with the business case for a FOGO facility and has a decision been made on the matter?
 - a. When will the business case be made public?
3. Did the consultants (ARUP) do a review of the various technologies relating to organic waste disposal?
 - a. Can this be made publicly available?
 - b. What technologies were considered?
 - c. Was there any public consultation on the preferred option and of the various technologies available?
 - d. b. Will the FOGO facility contain a vessel that can compost up to 50,000 tonnes per annum?
4. When was the preferred option for FOGO presented to the Minister?
5. What is the \$700,000 allocation in 2020-2021 for?
6. Why is there not a forward allocation in the budget for the facility?
7. What is the expected cost of the facility?
8. When will the Environment Impact Statement (EIS) process commence?
9. Will the EIS process be concluded before procurement for the facility operator takes place?
10. Can it be clarified that the procurement will be for a company/people to run the facility – with site secured, business case, all approvals in place?
11. It is unclear re the status of business food waste, the EIS document seems to preclude it, so then what is the mechanism for dealing with it and what time frame? Another five years for another facility?
12. What will be the future of the existing green waste processing facilities if most of the domestic green waste ends up in the FOGO facility?

Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Government has investigated suitable sites for a permanent, large scale FOGO processing facility for the ACT. Work on an Environmental Impact Statement scoping study has commenced for a site in the Hume Resource Recovery Estate, consistent with the Government's policy that large scale waste facilities should be based in Hume. It should be noted however the Government will await the outcomes of the EIS scoping study before determining a site.

- a. Investigations of potential sites has been informed by the Government's policy that large scale waste facilities should be based in Hume, as well as consideration of future expansion and other environmental and amenity impacts.
2. I refer to the 2021-22 ACT Budget initiative titled "Food organics and garden organics – waste recovery facility."
 - a. Business cases often include cost estimates and other sensitive information that will inform a future procurement process and, therefore will not be publicly released.
3. Yes.
 - a. No. FOGO investigations contain cost estimates and other sensitive information that if released could impact the ACT Government's ability to ensure competitive tender processes. As such, this analysis is not available publicly. It is intended that a public summary document will be released in coming months, providing an overview of investigations and outlining next steps.
 - b. The following technologies were investigated:
 - i. Dry anaerobic digestion.
 - ii. Open windrow of aerated static pile.
 - iii. Insect processing.
 - iv. Co-located dry anaerobic digestion and in-vessel composting.
 - v. Co-located wet anaerobic digestion and in-vessel composting infrastructure.
 - c. A soft market sounding with industry was completed by ARUP as part of FOGO investigations. Community and stakeholder consultation will be undertaken through the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed FOGO processing facility. The stakeholders identified through the EIS scoping document for the facility will be engaged during the consultation process and a consultation report will be provided to the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) through the EIS preparation process.
 - d. The final design and inclusions of the facility will be subject to future government considerations.
4. The preferred option was presented to the Minister in July 2020.
5. The 2021-22 ACT Budget initiative titled "Food organics and garden organics – waste recovery facility" will allow the Government to continue work to establish a FOGO waste recovery facility for Canberra including an EIS and site selection works.
6. The Government first needs to undertake an EIS and site selection works before committing to a site.
7. The expected cost is subject to future consideration by Government.
8. TCCS has finalised procurement documentation for the appointment of a consultancy to undertake the required EIS studies in accordance with requirements in the EPSDD issued EIS scoping document (issued in April 2021). The tender document to engage EIS consultant is programmed to be released before the end of the year.
9. The engagement of a FOGO facility operator will run parallel to the EIS process.
10. The procurement methodology is subject to future consideration by government.
11. Commercial food waste processing capacity will form part of future government decision making.

12. It is likely that separate green waste processing facilities will continue to be needed in the future.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

4 / 11 / 21

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA