



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

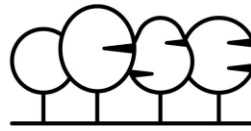
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the waste management of absorbent hygiene products

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Standing Committee on Environment,
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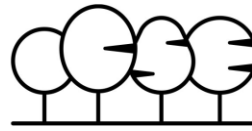
To whom it may concern

Supplementary Submission –

Inquiry into waste management of absorbent hygiene products

Since the Inquiry's hearings into the issues around the waste management of absorbent hygiene products, the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment has been provided with additional relevant information. Further details provided were provided by the City of Hobart Waste Education Officers on the composting of nappies in waste management centres.

- The City of Hobart ('the City') run a small composting operation based at the Waste Management Centre at McRobies Gully. This facility consists of open windrows and processes between 5-6,000 tonnes of organic material per year. The compost is certified under the Australian Composting Standard 'AS 4454 – Soil Conditioners and Mulches' and undergoes testing against EPA regulatory standards.
- Prior to city-wide FOGO collections, the City accepted small quantities of compostable nappies from a particular local Hobart supplier. These nappies were found to compost well without any additional treatment and the final compost product continued to meet certification and regulatory standards.
- The City rolled out FOGO in 2 stages: garden organics was stage 1 followed by the addition of food organics in later years as stage 2. The addition of food organics coincided with the City outsourcing the processing of FOGO to an external compost facility, which is also an open windrow operation albeit at a significantly larger scale. The external FOGO processing facility also accept appropriate compostable nappies as part of FOGO loads which is collected in the City's kerbside collection service.
- The City of Hobart have been cautious in their promotion of accepting compostable nappies on a broad scale because of the prevalence of products claiming to be compostable or biodegradable that are not suitable for composting system. While the particular nappies noted above are tested as appropriate, other nappies have been considered but on closer inspection have been found to contain non-compostable components.
- Further information about the City of Hobart's FOGO service, composting facilities, and certifications for compostable products that can be disposed of in FOGO bins can be accessed [here](#).



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND
THE ENVIRONMENT

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional information.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sophie Lewis
Commissioner for Sustainability
and the Environment

01/02/2023