



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

In relation to: Healthy soils funds - date of release

Hearing: 22 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 86

Transcript provided: 24 July 2026

Answer Due: 31 July 2026

Mr Haraldson took on notice the following question(s):

MS CLAY: In the original infrastructure pipeline, that project, the FOGO facility, was set down as a \$100 million to \$250 million facility, and the information so far is that it is, I think, a \$26 million facility with the ACT and federal contributions. Can you explain to me how we get from \$26 million to \$100 to \$250 million?

Mr Haraldson: The \$26 million was worked out back when the Healthy Soil Fund was released. I do not have the date of that timeframe; it was around 2022, but I will take that on notice. The process of FOGO facilities and the amount of material that we need to process has been a major determination of the EIS and the process we have been through to work out how much material can be processed on that site. So the site would be sized enough to process 70,000 tonnes per annum. Initially we believed it would be about a 50,000 tonne facility with room to grow. So the 26 million would be a contribution from the government. Through the RFP process we will determine the price that the market determines that this facility, at a 50,000 to 70,000 tonne capacity, needs to be. The 50,000 is very much tied to the amount of material that we believe will be processed through the ACT with provision for commercial FOGO material as well. The 20,000 and above that is a determination from the contractor whether they wish to chase, if you like, the commodity or the material from the surrounding councils. So in some respects, that 20,000 is a free board to determine whether you want to invest now into further composting there.

MS CLAY: I think I understand, but I just want to check. It sounds like \$26 million is the combined ACT and commonwealth contribution at the moment and I think—what did we say the commonwealth contribution was? I think 10.5 million?

Mr Fitzgerald: Thirteen.

Mr Haraldson: Thirteen.

MS CLAY: Thirteen? 13 million from the commonwealth, 13 million from the ACT government. And the total cost or value of the facility is quite a lot higher. But the operators—and you have not yet awarded a contract—may well make more money from commercial drop-offs and from selling the product. Have I got that?

Mr Fitzgerald: That is correct. And it is not a dissimilar approach to that that we took to the Materials Recovery Facility.

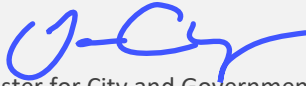
MS CLAY: To the Materials Recovery Facility, which was my next update. Thankyou so much for leading in so neatly.

Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund opened in March 2022, and the ACT application was granted in August 2022.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:



Date:

31/7/26

By the Minister for City and Government Services, Tara Cheyne MLA