



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

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

In relation to: Modelling - additional emissions due to delays with FOGO facility

Hearing: 31 July 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 49–50

Transcript provided: 4 August 2026

Answer Due: 11 August 2026

Ms Bethel Sendaba took on notice the following question(s):

MR BRADDOCK: And so has the government evaluated the emissions that will be emanated as a result of the delay in the food and organic waste plant being rolled out?

Ms Orr: I will pass to the directorate.

Ms Sendaba: I will have to take that one on notice.

MR BRADDOCK: So you are making decisions about delaying of the projects which will have a climate impact which you are not aware of.

Ms Orr: Mr Braddock, I think the questions is to the considerations of delivery for the FOGO facility would probably be best placed to the minister responsible, which is Minister Cheyne.

MS CLAY: If I might, we did ask questions about this last week with Minister Cheyne and Minister Orr—

THE CHAIR: And Ms Cheyne said—yes.

MS CLAY: —and Minister Orr said, “Bring them back to me in this session on Friday”, so I am finding that a bit difficult that we are now not getting an answer.

THE CHAIR: I think I recall that, Minister Orr.

Ms Orr: Yes, okay. I think talking about the questions, they were going to broader waste emissions profiles; they were not necessarily going to the impacts of the delivery of the FOGO facility, so that is fine, we can—Mr Braddock, if you can help me out with your question and perhaps rephrasing it so

it is a little bit clearer within my portfolio so I can see what I can do to help answer it, otherwise I will take it on notice and come back with a question from Minister Cheyne. An answer.

MR BRADDOCK: I would be interested in what modelling the government has done in terms of the emissions that are produced, the additional emissions that are produced from the delay in the rollout of FOGO in the ACT.

Ms Orr: Okay. I might get the directorate just to talk you through what emissions modelling we do and how that goes into informing decisions across government so.

Ms Sendaba: Just to reiterate with respect to the question about the modelling of emissions from waste that is going to food waste that is going to landfill now whilst the new facility is being constructed, we will take that question on notice, but more broadly speaking, we have an emissions projections model for the ACT which allows us to predict out the emissions profile against of all the actions that we are taking across government, as well as that informs as part of the annual greenhouse gas inventory that we take that allows us to track how we are progressing on emissions reductions overall.

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government maintains an emissions projection model for the Territory. It is regularly updated to support monitoring and assessment of the Territory's progress towards its legislated emissions reduction targets.

The model assesses multiple emissions pathways to understand the potential impacts of different policy decisions. This includes the introduction of a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) facility, with scenarios regarding the timing of its commencement and expected waste diversion rates.

The emissions impacts associated with food organic waste were quantified and valued as part of a pilot initiative to incorporate emissions considerations into business cases. This analysis was undertaken for the FOGO facility business case and was attached to support the government decision relating to the FOGO collection and processing model. This analysis also considered the impact the timing of the facility has on emissions.

Noting there is uncertainty associated with forecasting FOGO diversion rates during the initial operation of the FOGO facility, it is estimated that the facility could divert between 10 to 25 kt of food waste from landfill initially. This would increase over time as residents become accustomed to the service.

Based on these assumptions, the FOGO facility could avoid approximately 8 – 19 kt CO₂-e emissions annually compared with a business-as-usual scenario in which food waste is disposed of in landfill and landfill gas is captured and flared. It should be noted that there are limitations in the methodology used to estimate waste emissions as part of the ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GGI), which may understate landfill methane capture performance.

In 2024-25, waste emissions were reported as 99.7 kt CO₂-e (representing 6% of total ACT emissions). Delays in the delivery of FOGO processing infrastructure may defer the opportunity to reduce waste emissions by approximately 8 - 19kt CO₂e per year.

OFFICIAL

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the letters 'S' and 'O'.

Signature:

Date: 13/08/26

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA