

CASE STUDY:

AIMING TO DIVERT ORGANIC MATERIALS FROM BEING LANDFILLED

An Organics Recycling Facility to service the Tamworth region is a topic that has been mooted by Council for some time. In 2019 it was decided to progress this concept with the construction and operation of the proposed facility currently out for tender. If Council does approve the construction of the facility it is anticipated that it will be operating by mid-2022.

This project aims to divert organic materials from being landfilled, process these products at a new purpose-built facility, utilising a Tunnel Composting System to produce an end product, which may include a range of high-grade mulch, compost and soil conditioners for use by local residents, businesses and for commercial and industrial uses.

Currently, our processing and composting of organic material is restricted to green waste only at the Forest Road Waste Management Facility. The current operational footprint of the Composting Facility has reached maximum processing and storage capacity and additional organic waste stream materials, such as food organics and commercial products are currently being landfilled. It is estimated that these additional organic waste streams could be in the order of up to 10,000tpa.

The new facility, if Council elects to proceed will provide the Tamworth region with the first Organic Recycling Facility, suitable to process up to 35,000tpa of a range of organic materials, including: Food and Garden organics and Category 3 organics. Category 3 organics incorporate meat, fish and fatty foods, fatty and oily sludge's and organics of animal and vegetable origin. There is consideration for expansion of the facility's processing capacity to 50,000tpa in the future as the growth of Tamworth region and associated industry expands.



THE PROCESS;

- STAGE 1** Lodge request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) with the department of planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE)
- STAGE 2** Hold a Planning Focus Meeting with government departments and agencies.
- STAGE 3** Identify a site and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with the SEARs. Complete Community and Stakeholder Consultation activities
- STAGE 4** Lodge a Development Application supported by an Environmental Impact Statement.
- STAGE 5** Public Exhibition of the Development Application and EIS (28 days)
- STAGE 6** Council prepares an assessment Report for consideration by the determining authority, the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP)
- STAGE 7** Public meeting Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) Wednesday, 23 September 2020
- STAGE 8** NRPP Determination
- STAGE 9** **CURRENT STAGE** Following the issue of Development Consent preparation of tender documents for the construction and operation of the facility taking into account the 98 Conditions of Consent issued by the NRPP.
- STAGE 10** **CURRENT STAGE** Tender for Construction and Operation of the Tamworth Organics Recycling Facility. Tender will close in May 2021.
- STAGE 11** **Council to consider tenders** Council will consider the tenders received and decide whether or not to proceed with the project and if proceeding award the contract to the preferred tenderer
- STAGE 12** Construction to commence
- STAGE 13** Operation of the facility