

## **1. How will the feedback be used?**

Feedback will be taken into consideration by the EPA in determining required operating conditions in to be demonstrated by RCoW in operation of the facility to protect the local environment and better meet community expectations, particularly in terms of the transparency of the facility performance.

## **2. How can I provide feedback?**

We encourage all residents to make submissions via the following

- By Email: [council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au). Please include 'Wangaratta Organics Processing Facility 12,000 Tonne License Amendment' in the subject line.
- Mail: PO Box 238, Wangaratta VIC 3676. Please include 'Wangaratta Organics Processing Facility 12,000 Tonne License Amendment' as the reference.
- In Person: To Customer Services, Wangaratta Government Centre – Corner Ford and Ovens Street, Wangaratta. Please include 'Wangaratta Organics Processing Facility 12,000 Tonne License Amendment' as the reference to your submission.

RCoW will also facilitate a separate information session for interested residents in early May 2023, please register interest to attend by email, mail or in person with 'Wangaratta Organics Processing Facility 12,000 Tonne License Amendment Community Meeting' as the reference.

## **3. Why is Council expanding the Organics Processing Facility license?**

The Rural City of Wangaratta (RCoW) 'Wangaratta Organics Processing Facility' commissioned in 2020, initially was issued a 5200 tonne per annum (TPA) operating license by the EPA.

Originally designed and constructed to have an operational capacity of 12,000 TPA the initial commissioning phase saw a license allocated to meet existing requirements material generated from Councils FOGO kerbside collection service (Green bin)

Over the last 3 years, urban areas have increased, and additional state policy implemented requiring RCoW to ensure every household has access to food and organise waste recycling or local composting by 2030

This increase in urban growth and change in state policy will require license capacity at the Wangaratta Organics Processing Facility to be increased to meet the growing need.

## **4. What additional infrastructure and equipment have been implemented at the facility to managed increased through-put?**

Council has invested in several capital projects and specific plant/equipment purchases to demonstrate adequate capacity to manage increased processing tonnages

- Maturation Pad Expansion: The area on which the compost is placed (in windrows) to further mature has been doubled in size : Commissioned October 2022
- Picking (De-contamination) Station: Purchased equipment to significantly remove contamination from FOGO material received : Scheduled commissioning June 2023
- Trommel/Screen Equipment: Purchased equipment to further refine and de-contaminate final compost product: Commissioned July 2022

#### **5. What additional control measures have been implemented at the facility to manage risks associated with expansion?**

The Wangaratta Organics Processing Facility has a large number of established systems and processes to actively manage risk to environment and amenity associated with operations, these have recently been further improved in the areas of:

- Leachate Pond Aeration System – This system forces oxygen into the leachate evaporation ponds, by maintaining oxygen levels this risk of stagnated leachate which produces odours is reduced.
- Motorised Cover Placement Equipment - In the processing phase of FOGO being received at the facility, material is required to be transported between certain areas in the license premises, this motorised equipment will significantly reduce the time material is exposed to open atmosphere further reducing risk of odours.
- Windsocks - Wind socks create a simple visual monitoring device that facility operators can assess local wind conditions and change/reduce operations as necessary, certain processing tasks at the facility involve shredding and windrow turning, risk of increasing dust and odour generation, this equipment provides a means of promptly adjusting operations as local conditions change.
- Ongoing Odour Monitoring & Response - RCoW actively engage with the community and relevant agencies (EPA) in identifying, verifying and reporting odours, information is actively shared with all stakeholders on an ongoing basis.
- Regular Community Engagement – RCoW regularly facilitate community meetings with residents and relevant agencies (EPA) providing updates on all aspects of operations, capital works and strategic projects at the facility, to provide updates and receive feedback.

- Community Education – RCoW have an appointed Waste Education Officer and regularly facilitate community tours of the Wangaratta Organics Processing Facility, providing an opportunity to demonstrate firsthand how control measures are actively implemented and utilised.