

MEDIA RELEASE**Shire of Esperance**

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Investigation into FOGO Approved

The Esperance Shire Council has committed to undertaking research for the possible introduction of a third bin system for Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) waste and processing via composting.

The Shire would like to make a positive impact towards Esperance's Waste Revolution while keeping costs to ratepayers as low as possible. The introduction of a third bin would mean that approximately 51% of waste that currently goes to landfill through the weekly rubbish collection could be diverted from landfill. This would reduce the production of greenhouse gases and have a positive impact on the leachate generation.

The diversion of 51% of waste from landfill would achieve and exceed the target set within the Community Waste Strategy 2018/-2023 (target was 45% by 2020) and also meets the State Government Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy target for major regional centres of 50% by 2020, although the Shire of Esperance is not classified as a major regional centre.

CEO Matthew Scott said, "It's in the very early planning stages to know how this would look and feel in Esperance. We now have a commitment from Council to investigate, plan, and apply for grants which is a pivotal first step. Further decisions will be required by Council along the process with budget allocations necessary."

Deputy President Natalie Bowman said, "During the investigation process we need to understand a number of different aspects and situations for the whole community that would impact on how the service would be delivered. We need to look different options that could include an opt in/opt out system, regularity of pick ups, treatment of the organics once collected and overall how it might all work. This is the first step towards investigating how a third bin could work for our community."

"It is fantastic to see that we already have people in our community who compost their own waste. The introduction of a third bin would mean that about half of what goes into the green bins we have now would be diverted from landfill."

Ends

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