



Mr Jason Jacobi
Secretary
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
GPO Box 44
Hobart TASMANIA 7001

Email: [c/o Jessie.Bailey@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:c/o.Jessie.Bailey@nre.tas.gov.au)

23 August 2023

Dear Mr Jacobi

Re: Recovery of Organics in Tasmania and creating a high-quality compost product

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR) is the national peak body for all stakeholders in the waste and resource recovery (WARR) industry. We have more than 2,000 members representing over 500 individual entities nationally, operating across a broad range of business organisations, the three (3) tiers of government, business, universities, and non-government organisations. Our essential industry has very much remained in the national conscience in recent years, yet despite a global move towards circularity including resource efficiency and carbon mitigation, Australia continues to focus heavily on linear behaviour and consumption, with those that create *waste* rarely being held accountable (legally or financially).

WMRR recognizes the Tasmanian Government's goal of reducing the volume of organic waste to landfill by 25% and 50% by 2025 and 2030 respectively and encourages broader recognition of removing organics from landfill as a product development pathway for a valuable resource that is crucial in enhancing soil quality, carbon sequestration and reducing methane emissions, and not simply treating this process as landfill (and therefore levy) avoidance.

Integral to the success and acceptance of compost products in the marketplace is being able to produce a high-quality product, free of contaminants and inclusions. To this end WMRR is very keen to see national consistency in relation to both the inputs and outputs of organic processes in Australia, this means clear and consistent messaging to householders and business about what is acceptable in organic bins, that is food and garden organic only with no packaging at all beyond a compostable bin liner.

[This position](#) has already been adopted in NSW and Queensland, further for your information, the [NSW EPA has also recently undertaken extensive work with the CSIRO](#) in relation to the risk that the presence of other materials can have on the safe production of compost. It is WMRR's view that to go beyond the agreed list of materials that can be accepted within FOGO bins, places a real risk to the compost's quality, possibly making it unsuitable for land application.

WMRR strongly believes that by following the NSW and Queensland approach, Tasmania can establish robust protocols to minimize the occurrence of contaminants in organics, thus safeguarding community health, the environment and optimizing the utility of compost as a valuable soil amendment. WMRR is very keen to see Tasmania adopt this approach as soon as possible to enable this valuable industry to grow with certainty and enable community confidence in our essential sector.

WMRR would be very keen to discuss this issue with you further, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned to discuss.

WMRR NATIONAL OFFICE
57 ST JOHNS ROAD
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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Sloan'.

Gayle Sloan
Chief Executive Officer
Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia
Mob: 0429 076 713

A large, stylized graphic of a recycling symbol (three chasing arrows forming a triangle) in the bottom right corner of the page. The symbol is composed of three curved segments in shades of light blue and light green.

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