Western Metropolitan Regional Council



DISCUSSION PAPER

Future Directions for FOGO Processing

September 2026

WMRC Member Councils

Town of Claremont | Town of Cottesloe | Town of Mosman Park | City of Subiaco | Shire of Peppermint Grove

Western Metropolitan Regional Council

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1. Executive Summary

The upcoming expiry of WMRC's FOGO processing contract provides an opportunity to review how organic waste can deliver greater environmental, economic and community value. While the current composting-based model is proven, reliable and consistent with government policy, increasing FOGO volumes, contamination challenges, emerging technologies and evolving sustainability objectives support consideration of alternative processing pathways.

This paper examines a range of options, including advanced composting, anaerobic digestion, hybrid processing systems and emerging thermal technologies. While composting remains the benchmark technology due to its maturity and low risk, alternative approaches may offer additional benefits through renewable energy generation, emissions reduction, carbon sequestration and improved circular economy outcomes.

The review also identifies an opportunity to consider splitting the FOGO stream according to contamination levels or material characteristics. A differentiated processing approach could allow cleaner material to be directed to higher-value recovery pathways, while more contaminated material is managed through technologies better able to tolerate contamination. Such an approach could improve overall resource recovery outcomes while creating stronger incentives for feedstock quality.

The review suggests that WMRC should maintain flexibility and avoid long-term technology lock-in. Future decisions should consider environmental, economic and strategic outcomes alongside cost, including greenhouse gas reduction, product quality, contamination sensitivity, regulatory certainty and market demand.

To inform procurement, a market engagement process through an Expression of Interest could be appropriate to better understand available technologies and contractual models. This would support the development of a technology-neutral procurement approach focused on achieving the best long-term outcomes for member councils and their communities.

2. Introduction

WMRC's current contract for the processing of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) material is due to expire in mid-2027. While the existing arrangements have provided a reliable and effective processing solution, the approaching contract expiry requires consideration of the most appropriate processing services and contractual arrangements for the period beyond 2027.

The purpose of this discussion paper is to inform that decision-making process and the design of the tender documentation.

Determining the most appropriate future approach requires more than a simple comparison of processing costs. Decisions regarding FOGO processing have implications for environmental outcomes, resource recovery performance, greenhouse gas emissions, circular economy objectives, operational risk and long-term financial sustainability. Accordingly, it is necessary to understand the criteria that should be used to assess alternative processing pathways and procurement approaches.

This paper therefore examines the comparative environmental benefits, economics and relative costs of established and emerging FOGO processing technologies. It also considers broader strategic factors including contamination management, regulatory alignment, market maturity, community expectations, risk and procurement flexibility. By providing this information, the paper is intended to support an evidence-based assessment of the options available to WMRC as it plans for future FOGO processing arrangements beyond the expiry of the current contract.

Processing technology is not the only possible variable in the contract design. Others may include contract length, and contamination management.

The overarching objective is to ensure that future decisions deliver the best long-term balance of environmental, economic and social outcomes for member councils and their residents.

3. Strategic Context

A review of FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) processing arrangements is consistent with several objectives contained within the Corporate Plan and broader government policy settings. Collectively, these strategic drivers support ongoing assessment of processing options to ensure recovered organic materials achieve the highest environmental, economic and community value outcomes.

WMRC Corporate Plan Alignment

The proposed review directly supports a number of Corporate Plan actions relating to resource recovery, market development and policy leadership.

Resource Recovery and Processing

- 2.2.1 Review and optimise collection, sorting and processing systems to improve material recovery and reduce residual waste.
- 2.3.2 Identify opportunities for processing technologies that improve material quality, recovery efficiency and market readiness.
- 2.3.3 Assess barriers and enablers for private sector investment in materials processing.

These actions recognise the importance of continually evaluating processing systems and emerging technologies to maximise resource recovery outcomes and improve long-term system efficiency.

Market Development

- 2.4.2 Advocate for improved specifications and consistency to increase recovered material uptake.
- 2.4.3 Document material flows to demonstrate environmental and economic value.

A review of FOGO processing pathways can provide greater understanding of material flows, product quality and end-market opportunities, helping to strengthen the value proposition for recovered organics.

Policy Leadership

- 4.1.2 Advocate for regulatory reforms supporting recovery and circular economy outcomes.
- 4.1.3 Provide evidence-based submissions and position papers on waste and circular economy policy.

Assessment of alternative processing pathways can inform future policy positions and provide evidence to support industry and government decision-making.

Local Government Policy Frameworks

Many local government policy frameworks position waste management within broader sustainability frameworks that include greenhouse gas reduction targets and carbon management objectives as well as waste reduction and waste reduction objectives. These are increasingly driven by community wishes. For WMRC's current FOGO customer base these are summarised below:

Local Government	FOGO Status	Key Policy Objectives	Notable Features
City of Subiaco	Implemented May 2023	Divert organics from landfill, reduce emissions, support State waste targets	Integrated with Waste Plan 2020-2025 and sustainability objectives Progressive FOGO rollout from houses to strata developments
Town of Cottesloe	Implemented June 2022	Landfill diversion, compost production, emissions reduction	First western suburbs council to adopt FOGO
Town of Mosman Park	Implemented August 2023	Increase resource recovery, achieve 70% diversion target, align with Waste Plan and Sustainability Strategy	Progressive FOGO rollout from houses to strata developments
Shire of Peppermint Grove	Implemented May 2025	Landfill diversion, compost production, improved recovery rates	Retains weekly residual bin collection
City of Vincent	Implemented October 2021	Support zero waste to landfill target, greenhouse gas reduction	Strong behavioural change and resident education program; staged rollout to apartments
Town of Victoria Park	Implemented 2025	Waste minimisation, climate action, net-zero objectives	Linked to Climate Emergency Plan and landfill diversion goals
City of Perth	Implemented 2026	Resource recovery, carbon reduction, State Waste Strategy compliance	Strong behavioural change and resident education program. Partial rollout (houses only) to date

State and national strategy and policy frameworks include several relevant points:

Western Australian Waste Strategy 2030

The objectives of the Western Australian Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 (currently under review as ‘Beyond WAste 2030’), are to transition the State toward a more circular economy through waste avoidance, increased value and

resource recovery, and reduced reliance on landfill particularly for organic waste. It aims that all local governments in the Perth and Peel regions implement 'better practice' FOGO collection systems.

The Strategy states that the government intends working with stakeholders to facilitate system readiness and improve quality of feedstock. It flags a possible future FOGO mandate.

National Waste Policy and Action Plan 2024

The national policy targets of diverting 80% of waste from landfill and halving organic waste to landfill by 2030 are anticipated to promote the diversion of organic materials both for other beneficial purposes and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It highlights the need for expanded collection services, processing capacity and market development for compost and other recovered products.

Australia's Circular Economy Framework 2024

At the national level, policy direction is increasingly focused on retaining materials in productive use for longer, growing domestic markets for recovered resources and encouraging investment in resource recovery infrastructure.

The Circular Economy framework supports the use of advanced organic processing technologies, particularly composting and anaerobic digestion, to produce high-quality recycled organics from well-separated and uncontaminated organic waste streams.

Australia's Net Zero Plan 2025

This plan presents FOGO as a methane abatement and circular economy measure focussing on diverting organic waste from landfill and channelling it to dedicated low-emissions processing. Like the Circular Economy Framework, it argues that keeping material in use longer and reducing waste lowers emissions across the economy.

This plan does discuss biomethane as an emerging renewable gas produced from organic feedstocks through anaerobic digestion.

Consequently, the selection of future FOGO processing pathways has implications extending beyond landfill diversion and waste management performance. Alternative processing technologies may be more beneficial in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy production, carbon sequestration, nutrient recovery and broader climate outcomes. Technologies such as anaerobic digestion, renewable gas production and biochar generation may provide opportunities to complement traditional composting systems while contributing to long-term decarbonisation goals.

Strategic Implication

Taken together, these corporate, state and national policy drivers indicate that a review of FOGO processing arrangements is both timely and strategically justified. The focus is no longer solely on diverting organic material from landfill, but on determining how

recovered organics can deliver the greatest overall value through improved resource recovery, market development, circular economy outcomes and emissions reduction.

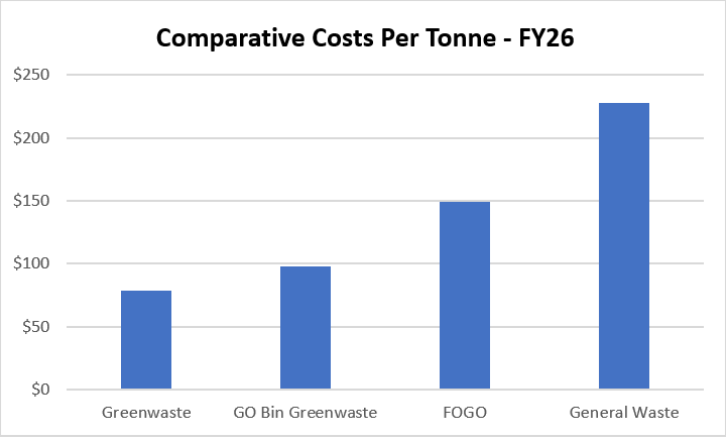
4. The Current Position

Existing Model

Under the current operating model, Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collected by member and customer councils are delivered to the WMRC's Recycling Centre, where the material is received, consolidated and prepared for bulk transport to a commercial processing facility near Gingin. At that facility, the material undergoes an open windrow composting process that converts the organic fraction of the waste stream into compost products for beneficial reuse. These arrangements are quantified for the 2025/26 financial year:

FY2026	
Metric	Position
Annual FOGO tonnes	14,000
Haulage distance	106 km (one-way)
Total handling, haulage and processing cost per tonne (Member Council gate fee)	$149
Total annual cost	$2,090,000 ex GST
Contamination rate	less than 5%

Comparative waste stream cost (Member Council gate fee) per tonne (ex GST) for last financial year is illustrated below.



FOGO material is received from the following member and non-member local governments as follows.

Local Government	2025/26 Tonnage
City of Subiaco	2,189
Town of Cottesloe	1,536
Town of Mosman Park	1,690
Shire of Peppermint Grove	397
City of Perth (part year)	110
City of Vincent	4,828
Town of Victoria Park	3,224

Strengths

The existing processing arrangement is based on a proven, low technology, and mature technology that is widely used throughout Australia and internationally. Composting focusses on material rather than energy recovery and at its best forms a valuable illustration of beneficial material reuse: food waste is used locally to promote food growth. Open windrow composting as an organic waste treatment method is well understood by regulators, local governments and the broader community, and benefits from established end markets for the resulting products. The current model carries relatively low technical and operational risk, as the technology is well tested and supported by experienced processing contractors. In addition, the arrangement aligns closely with current Western Australian waste and resource recovery policy settings, providing a high degree of regulatory certainty and market acceptance.

Limitations

While the current model has performed effectively, it also presents several limitations that warrant consideration as the existing contract approaches expiry. The transport of material to a processing facility over 100km away adds cost, emissions and other transport-related risks. Under licencing constraints, the facility needs to minimise the number of sensitive receptors; in essence it must be situated away from residential areas. Once onsite the material processing requirements include manual decontamination, shredding, turning, time, and testing to remove or reduce physical, chemical and biological contaminants.

Compost derived from FOGO forms only a proportion of the input streams to create marketable and Australian Standard compliant compost and soil products. Others include more predictable and local agricultural wastes which are not subject to the same number of contamination pathways.

As a result, the market value of FOGO-derived compost products is constrained by factors including contamination, market confidence, and risk aversion by potential high-volume users. In turn this is constraining processors' ability to expand and potentially leading to a period of oversupply of FOGO-derived input to processors.

For clarity, clean FOGO products have high potential for application to agricultural land; our soils are amongst the most depleted worldwide and nationwide less than 0.1% of agricultural land would consume all compost from all households. However low prices for other soil amendments provide a cap to the amount the agricultural market will pay for fertilizers.

There is a risk that as more Local Governments roll out FOGO services to their residents, capacity limitations will increase processing prices and/or decrease the acceptable contamination level in delivered product. In turn this will drive up costs for Local Governments and their residents although low contamination levels may mitigate this. Furthermore, WMRC's current approach is broadly similar to that being adopted by many other local governments, providing limited differentiation in terms of innovation, circular economy outcomes or the extraction of additional value from the FOGO stream.

5. Contamination in FOGO

Although generally under 5% by weight, even this level of contamination has a considerable negative effect on market acceptance of the composted product. It is therefore a contributor to increased costs. Contamination measurement and minimisation is therefore important in processing cost minimisation.

In addition, common contaminants are generally lighter than target materials and therefore highly visible. A recent study in one inner metropolitan Perth local government illustrates this. An audit of a representative sample of household bins was carried out, and the contamination was assessed by weight and volume and according to whether it should have been in the recycling bin, the general waste bin or neither:

FOGO Bin – Material Composition		
	Weight %	**Volume %**
FOGO	96.05	91.49
Comingled recycling	1.57	4.25
General Waste	2.28	4.05
HHW/ e-waste/ miscellaneous	0.10	0.22

In essence, FOGO may appear to have a contamination level about twice the weight-based level.

The Australian Standard (AS4454) for compost and similar products is intended to produce clean, consistent and safe recycled organic products however needs to be updated to improve end product quality. The most recent review ended in 2024 and no updates have yet been made. Nonetheless it does prescribe strict limits for most types of contamination.

Types

FOGO contamination can be categorised as biological, chemical or physical. In most cases, biological contamination is well-mitigated by the composting process, and the sources of chemical contamination in FOGO are generally items of physical contamination including some food packaging materials.

Causes

Contamination may be accidental or deliberate; the recent simplification of acceptable items in the FOGO stream can be anticipated to reduce accidental contamination over time when accompanied by consistent communications to residents. Studies show that deliberate FOGO contamination is generally undertaken by a very low proportion of the community.

Measurement

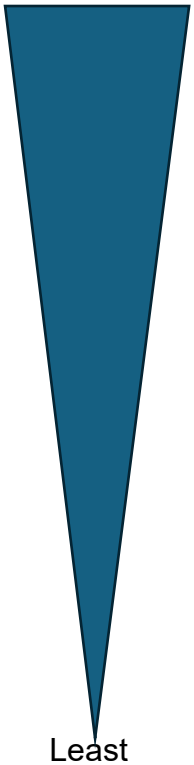
AI-enhanced studies of visual contamination in over 800,000 collections across three Australian States indicate that 63% of all bins are clean, 29% have minor contamination and only 8% are severely contaminated. This is consistent with data derived from bin-tagging.

Statistically reliable weight-based contamination measurement requires space, time and resources that are not compatible with operational requirements. A recent DWER-funded study is anticipated to cost well over $10,000 and take 6 months to publish results.

Visual contamination can be assessed within operational requirements and can be made robust with staff training aided by AI-enhanced assessment tools. However. there is no accepted standard for converting visual contamination to weight-based contamination which is generally used for comparative and contractual purposes.

Removal

Independent of processing technology, contamination removal methods can be classified according to a preference hierarchy as summarised below:

Preference	Stage	Methods	Risks	Cost
Most preferred  Least preferred	Prevention	• Community education • Community enforcement • Collection processes	Community non-compliance	~$9/hhold/year is the benchmark
	Removal before processing	• Manual removal • Screening • Magnets	Contamination fragmentation Loss of organic waste (eg adhesion when wet)	Infrastructure requirements increase with effectiveness of process
	Removal during processing	• Heat and pH management • Microbial competition • Screening		
	Removal after processing	• Screening • Diluting with cleaner feedstocks		
	No removal		Limited market	Cost to dispose without recovering any organic material

Market impact

Although agricultural studies have shown that FOGO-derived composts products have a highly beneficial effect on soil health, crop growth and water retention, FOGO-derived products are new to the market, and the presence or suspected presence of contamination is the most commonly quoted factor limiting their use.

6. Alternate FOGO Processing Technologies

Option 1 - Advanced Composting

Advanced composting represents an evolutionary rather than revolutionary approach to organics processing. Advanced composting facilities increasingly incorporate enclosed processing systems, enhanced contamination removal technologies and sophisticated quality assurance systems capable of producing more consistent and marketable compost products.

The principal advantage of this approach is that it builds upon a technology that is already well understood, widely accepted by regulators and supported by established

markets. It would involve relatively low transition risk and could attract multiple potential service providers. Given the maturity of the technology, procurement and implementation risks would also be comparatively low.

The limitation of advanced composting is that while it delivers improvements in product quality and operational performance, it is likely to increase the processing costs of FOGO processing without significantly expanding the range of benefits generated from the material stream.

Option 2 - Anaerobic Digestion (AD)

Anaerobic digestion (AD) involves the biological decomposition of organic material within sealed, oxygen-free vessels. The process produces biogas, which can be used to generate electricity, renewable heat or renewable gas, while also producing digestate that may be further processed into soil amendment products.

Compared with conventional composting, anaerobic digestion offers the potential to extract additional value from the FOGO stream through renewable energy production. This creates opportunities to align waste management outcomes with broader decarbonisation and energy transition objectives.

From a strategic perspective, anaerobic digestion may offer stronger alignment with circular economy principles by viewing organics as both a resource and an energy source. However, these benefits must be balanced against higher capital costs, increased operational complexity and the need for reliable high feedstock volumes over extended periods. The commercial viability of such facilities improves with food organics-rich feedstocks as they break down relatively quickly under anaerobic conditions and produce higher methane yields. FOGO material is generally around 80-85% garden waste by weight and would therefore not be a preferred feedstock. Collections from multi-unit dwellings and some commercial premises yield higher food organics percentages and could be acceptable.

Option 3 - Hybrid AD and Composting

A hybrid model combines the strengths of anaerobic digestion and composting within an integrated processing system. Food organics are typically directed to anaerobic digestion to maximise energy recovery, while digestate and green organics are subsequently composted to create valuable soil products.

This approach enables multiple forms of value recovery from the same material stream. Rather than requiring a choice between energy production and compost generation, the hybrid model seeks to optimise both outcomes. The result is improved renewable energy generation and continued production of beneficial soil amendments.

For WMRC, the hybrid model presents an opportunity to maximise environmental outcomes without abandoning the established benefits associated with compost use. However, there have been no commercially successful examples of this model in WA.

It would depend upon significant private sector investment and/or regional collaboration to achieve sufficient scale.

Option 4 – Thermal technologies – pyrolysis and gasification

Pyrolysis and gasification involve the thermal treatment of organic materials in a no- or low-oxygen environment to create varying proportions of biochar (a stable carbon-rich product), bio-oil and synthetic fuel. These products bind carbon and nutrients in soils and provide fuels. Like AD they view organics as a resource and energy source, unlike AD they are more suited to dry woody garden organics rather than moisture-rich food organics.

From an environmental perspective, biochar is attractive because a significant proportion of carbon contained within organic material can remain locked within the final product for extended periods. This characteristic may create future opportunities associated with carbon markets and carbon credit generation.

A 2024 study in Queensland run jointly between a Local Government and a wastewater processing entity found that combined gasification and AD of FOGO and wastewater waste was not financially viable under current sectoral responsibilities Despite promise, thermal technologies remain an emerging opportunity rather than an established mainstream solution for municipal FOGO processing. Questions remain regarding feedstock suitability, market scale, regulatory treatment and economic viability at large scale.

Option 5 - Other Technologies

Other technologies include vermiculture, protein production and dehydration. These technologies have been used on a very small scale and have not been tested at a municipal scale. They are also generally more suitable for food waste than garden waste. Benefits include net carbon sequestration, and waste volume and weight reduction. Vermiculture produces highly beneficial solid and liquid soil amendment products, protein production produces animal feed (insect larvae) and organic fertiliser (frass), dehydration reduces haulage costs although outputs still need to be processed before use. All contribute to soil carbon; their net greenhouse gas impact varies by technology.

These technologies remain at a very early stage of commercial development and are unlikely to represent practical procurement options in the near future.

7. Technology Choice

Composting is a proven and widely adopted method of processing FOGO materials that delivers significant material recovery and produces a valuable soil amendment product. The WA State Waste Strategy does not contemplate alternative organic waste

processing technologies for FOGO. The marketability of the product is however contamination sensitive.

Nevertheless, the presence and ongoing development of alternate technologies highlight the importance of avoiding procurement approaches that unintentionally lock WMRC into a single recovery pathway for extended periods. A key consideration for the organisation is ensuring sufficient flexibility in contracting to adapt to future technological developments while continuing to achieve reliable and cost-effective processing outcomes in the short and medium term.

In addition, forthcoming changes at the West Metro Recycling Centre potentially provide an opportunity for a split solution for the FOGO waste stream; for example, one technology for low contamination content and another, less sensitive of higher contamination. Lower fees for clean loads and higher fees for contaminated loads would incentivise clean FOGO streams in line with preferred contamination removal approaches indicated in Section 5.

Assessment criteria for evaluating processing options may include:

- Resource recovery outcomes and overall material value.
- Greenhouse gas emissions reduction and carbon sequestration potential.
- Renewable energy generation opportunities.
- Sensitivity to contamination.
- Market maturity and demand for recovered products.
- Regulatory certainty and policy alignment.
- Operational reliability and scalability.
- Capital and lifecycle costs.
- Risk profile and long-term commercial viability.

8. Risk Assessment

Any evaluation of future FOGO processing pathways should be undertaken with a clear understanding of the potential risks associated with each option. While alternative technologies may present opportunities for improved resource recovery, emissions reduction or value creation, experience across the waste and resource recovery sector demonstrates that technology selection must balance innovation with operational, regulatory and commercial certainty.

A comprehensive assessment should therefore consider the following risk categories:

Risk Category	Example Considerations
Technology Risk	Unproven performance, operational reliability, scalability and technology maturity.
Regulatory Risk	Changes to approvals, licensing requirements, environmental standards or policy settings.
Market Risk	Demand uncertainty for recovered products, changing customer requirements.
Feedstock Risk	Variability in FOGO volumes, contamination levels and long-term supply certainty.
Financial Risk	Capital investment requirements, operating costs, funding availability and return on investment.
Contract Risk	Contractual lock-in, limited flexibility and exposure to changing market conditions.
Community and Reputational Risk	Public acceptance, odour management, transport impacts and stakeholder expectations.

Each processing pathway should be assessed through this risk lens alongside its potential environmental, economic and strategic benefits. The objective is not simply to identify the option with the highest theoretical value, but to determine which option or mix of options provides the most effective balance of performance, risk, flexibility and long-term resilience for WMRC and its member councils.

9. Community Expectations

An important consideration in evaluating future FOGO processing options is the extent to which the community is prepared to support higher-cost processing solutions where those solutions deliver demonstrable environmental benefits.

Accordingly, the assessment of future processing options should not be based solely on the lowest cost per tonne. Evaluation criteria should also balance the environmental value generated by each option, including greenhouse gas reduction, renewable energy production, carbon sequestration potential, resource recovery outcomes and alignment with local government sustainability objectives. Where higher-cost technologies can demonstrate materially improved environmental performance, these

benefits should be quantified and considered alongside financial costs within a broader value-for-money framework.

As such, future procurement assessments should seek to identify not only the direct financial costs of each processing pathway but also the environmental and social benefits generated, enabling decision-makers to determine whether any additional cost is justified by the long-term value delivered to the community and the environment.

These comments are tempered by the consideration that if a step change occurs in FOGO bin costs due to supply and demand constraints, there will be a point at which cost concerns will outweigh environmental concerns.

10. Market Approach

An important consideration for WMRC is how best to engage the market before developing a formal procurement specification. If the organisation proceeds directly to a traditional processing tender, there is a risk that the resulting specification may inadvertently favour existing technologies and business models. While this approach may simplify procurement, it may also limit innovation and reduce the visibility of emerging opportunities.

An alternative approach would involve a structured market engagement process prior to tender. This could include an Expression of Interest (EOI) process designed to test market capability, identify emerging technologies and better understand investment appetite. Such a process would not commit WMRC to a specific technology but would assist the organisation to understand what options may be commercially available within the relevant timeframe.

A pre-procurement market engagement process could seek information on:

- Technology solutions currently operating in Australia.
- Minimum feedstock requirements.
- Contamination sensitivity.
- Infrastructure and site requirements.
- Commercial delivery models.
- Regulatory barriers and policy requirements.
- Contract duration requirements to support investment.

The information gathered would help WMRC assess whether a conventional service contract remains the most appropriate procurement model or whether alternative arrangements should be considered.

Potential Procurement Pathways

Following market engagement, WMRC could pursue one of several procurement models.

Option 1: Traditional Processing Tender

WMRC specifies the service required and invites proposals from existing processors. This approach provides certainty and simplicity but may favour established technologies.

Option 2: Technology-Neutral Tender

WMRC specifies desired outcomes, such as contamination sensitivities, greenhouse gas reduction and product quality standards, rather than prescribing a processing technology. Proponents would be free to propose solutions capable of delivering the required outcomes.

Option 3: Two-Stage Procurement Process

WMRC undertakes an EOI process followed by a selective Request for Tender (RFT). This allows the organisation to better understand available options before seeking detailed proposals and can encourage innovation while maintaining competitive tension.

Option 4: Partnership and Investment Model

Where the market identifies a compelling opportunity requiring long-term feedstock security or infrastructure support, WMRC could consider partnership arrangements involving land, feedstock commitments or other enabling mechanisms. This approach has the potential to deliver greater long-term value but requires careful assessment of risk, governance and financial implications.

11. Conclusions

The expiry of the current FOGO processing contract presents WMRC with an opportunity to consider how the region can maximise the environmental, economic and circular economy value derived from this material stream over the coming years.

While composting remains a proven and effective benchmark technology, the analysis within this paper suggests that alternative and emerging processing pathways may offer additional benefits. At the same time, technological change and evolving policy settings create a risk that a traditional technology-specific procurement process could unnecessarily constrain future opportunities.

A staged and market-led approach may be appropriate. This could involve an initial Expression of Interest process to build understanding of available technologies, commercial models, infrastructure requirements, feedstock quantity and contamination thresholds. The information gathered would then inform the development of a technology-neutral procurement strategy focused on desired outcomes rather than prescribed processing methods.

This approach would directly support several objectives within the WMRC Corporate Plan. It enables the organisation to review and optimise processing systems to improve resource recovery outcomes (Action 2.2.1), identify technologies capable of improving recovery efficiency and material value (Action 2.3.2), and better understand the barriers and enablers influencing private sector investment in processing infrastructure (Action 2.3.3). It also strengthens WMRC's ability to document material flows, evaluate environmental and economic outcomes, and contribute to evidence-based policy discussions regarding the future of organics recovery and circular economy development.

Importantly, any future assessment should extend beyond a simple comparison of processing costs. A broader value-for-money approach is consistent with WMRC's role as a regional leader in resource recovery and its commitment to delivering long-term environmental benefits on behalf of member councils and their communities.