



FOGO Position Paper Summary

AORA is the peak industry body and national voice for Australia's organics recycling supply chain. AORA works to maximise the recycling and reuse of organic materials within a circular economy, and to promote the benefits of compost, soil conditioners and mulches across the community and business.

Governments have committed to halving organic waste to landfill by 2030, achieving 80% organics diversion by 2030, rolling out FOGO to all households by 2030, and reaching net zero by 2050. As of July 2025, of 544 Local Government Areas with kerbside collection: 200 (36.7%) have a FOGO service, 75 have Garden Organics only, and 269 (49%) have neither. This paper sets out industry's perspective on the FOGO rollout and six operational challenges processors face in turning FOGO into safe, quality compost — and proposes a first-step solution for each.

Key Priorities

- **Source separation & behaviour change:** correct separation is a shared responsibility across manufacturers, households, councils, collectors and processors.
- **Measure and share the right data:** targets should focus on quality of diversion and conversion rates, not just tonnes collected.
- **Treat organic waste as a resource, in action:** policy, procurement and legislation still under-value recycled organics relative to their proven benefits.

Six Challenges, and the first steps to solve these

1. Clarifying the purpose of a FOGO service

Position: FOGO bins should only contain food and garden organics (and in some states certified compostable liners (AS 4736)). Industry's ambitious target is a maximum 2% physical contamination, tightening over time.

First step: AORA and government to build a clear, consistent public narrative on what FOGO becomes and why correct use of the system matters.

2. Bin collection frequency and contamination

Position: Councils need flexibility in service design; FOGO performance should be measured by quality of recovery, not tonnes; strong, consistent accountability at the source (e.g. AI contamination-detection cameras) is needed.

First step: Industry, through AORA, to establish a contamination data feedback loop across the supply chain.

3. Caddy liner use, confusion and behaviour change

Position: Certified compostable (CC) liners aid participation, but current contamination levels warrant cautious support; nationally consistent standards, labelling and enforcement are needed to curb confusion and greenwashing.

First step: Support the 2026 review of AS 4736-2006 and advocate for clearer, consistent product language.

4. Hazardous contaminants (batteries, vapes, glass, needles)

Position: These pose serious safety and cost risks and reflect systems failure upstream. Urgent national action, and extended producer responsibility / stewardship schemes, are needed; "accept all" contracts are inappropriate.

First step: AORA and industry peers to continue advocating for urgent national action to remove hazardous items from kerbside collections.

5. Emerging chemicals of concern (e.g. PFAS)

Position: Inconsistent jurisdictional interpretation is ineffective. A single, integrated, science-based national framework is needed, with responsibility placed upstream rather than on end-of-stream processors.

First step: Advocate for national harmonisation of NEMP 3.0 guidance and monitoring for priority contaminants.

6. Processor investment in decontamination infrastructure

Position: Industry is investing heavily — often multimillion-dollar equipment and dedicated staff — to manage contamination. These costs and risks should be shared more equitably across government, industry and waste generators.

First step: AORA to develop a standard reporting template for processors and local government on conversion, diversion and contamination trends.

In conclusion, solving these six challenges is a shared responsibility across the FOGO value chain.

AORA is committed to working with governments, councils and supply-chain partners to strengthen source separation, data quality and resourcing, so the sector can meet Australia's 2030 diversion targets and 2050 net-zero commitment while protecting the quality and safety of finished compost products.