

## Proposed Organic Recycling Facility



**Community Information Session**

**Tamworth Community Centre**

**Thursday, 18 July 2019**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Currently, Tamworth Regional Council's processing and composting of organic material is restricted to green waste only at the Forest Road Waste Management Facility. The Composting Facility is licensed with the Environment Protection Authority and processes approximately 15,000 tpa of green waste to produce a high-grade mulch product. The current operational footprint of the Composting Facility has reached maximum processing and storage capacity and additional organic waste stream materials, such as food organics and commercial products are currently being landfilled. It is estimated that these additional organic waste streams could be in the order of up to 10,000tpa.

This Project aims to divert organic materials from being landfilled, process these products at a new purpose-built facility, utilising Tunnel Composting System to produce an end product, which may include a range of high-grade mulch, compost and soil conditioners for use by local residents, businesses and for commercial and industrial uses.

This facility, once commissioned will provide the Tamworth region with the first Organic Recycling Facility, suitable to process up to 35,000tpa of a range of organic materials, including: Food and Garden organics and Category 3 organics. Category 3 organics incorporate meat, fish and fatty foods, fatty and oily sludge's and organics of animal and vegetable origin. There is consideration for expansion of the facility's processing capacity to 50,000tpa in the future as the growth of Tamworth region and associated industry expands.

## ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

To understand the concerns of the community.

## PARTICIPANTS

Local residents and community members – approx. 50 attendees

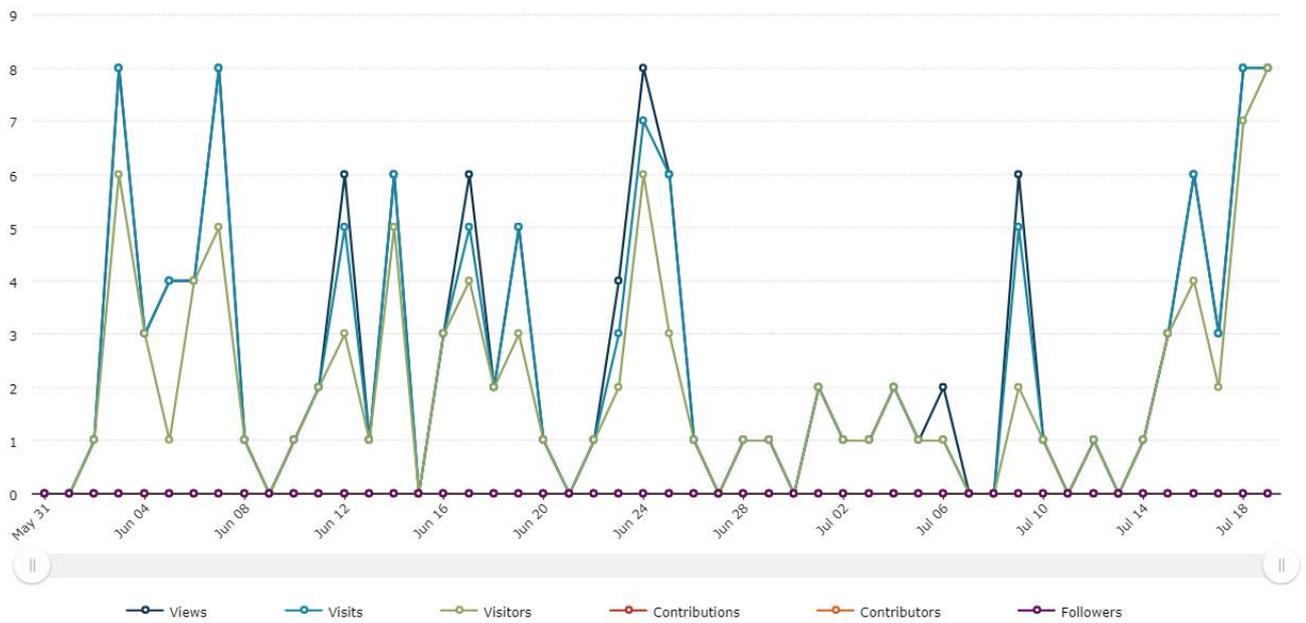
## POINT OF INFORMATION

<https://yourvoice.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/tamworth-organic-recycling-facility>

## RESULTS OF ENGAGEMENT

Information is available through the MYTRC Online Engagement portal at the following link:  
<https://yourvoice.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/tamworth-organic-recycling-facility>

The following report shows the reach via the portal:



### Referral Types



- Direct
- Websites
- Search Engine
- Other
- Social Media

**130**  
Views

**124**  
Visits

## RESULTS OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

The following questions were asked:

1. Can Council provide a list of ALL Organic Recycling Facilities currently operating in NSW? Bruce Logan (TRC) replied yes, we can organise that.
2. Can Council provide a list of Organic Recycling Facilities running that will have the same level of abattoir waste received that the Tamworth facility will? TRC said that we can try to obtain this information.
3. Will the piles drying out on maturation pads cause odour and contamination especially when it is being turned? Bruce Logan explained the Facility will require a license, which will be administered by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA). If the Facility is constructed you would submit your complaints to the EPA, either local office in Armidale or elsewhere.
4. Will the piles seep contamination into the ground water supply? Jessica Berry (pitt&sherry) explained that it is part of the construction of the pads to prevent contamination or seepage into the ground water supply and that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process will address these concerns.
5. Being so close to the Peel River, will there be potential for contamination to the water system, killing fish & wildlife? Jessica Berry explained that there will be a leachate dam designed to capture any contaminated waters in the event of a 1 in 100 year flood. In addition, there will also be runoff stormwater dams and tanks to reduce any potential of an overflow or flows of any waters off-site.
6. Can current bore water that neighboring property owners / residents are drinking be tested prior to any construction activities and then again after the facility is operational to see if there are any changes or contamination? Bruce Logan said yes he doesn't see an issue with this.
7. In regards to bio security is the time in the tunnels adequate?  
The resident time of batched organic materials in the tunnels is 28 days, which is double the EPA's recommended time normally. Council view the additional 14 days to be sufficient to address concerns related to bio security and odour.
8. How much water will the facility use each day? Jessica Berry said the EIS will produce these figures. However, the design of the facility will incorporate a high focus on reuse of leachate in the tunnels, followed by stormwater or bore water on the pad piles.
9. Have all the Aboriginal sites been identified on the property? There was a concerned Community member, saying that his mob had not been consulted on this proposal? Jessica Berry said the EIS will address any Aboriginal sites on the land and will touch base with the Community member following the conclusion of the meeting. Bruce Logan said the Development Application (DA) hasn't even been lodged as yet.

10. There will be a considerable increase in traffic flow including a large number of B-doubles, the road is too narrow and will be dangerous for school buses and children on the road before and after school. Jessica Berry explained a Traffic Assessment and counter has been performed. Bruce Logan said any road that needs improvement due to the facility will be included as a condition of development consent. This will be included in the EIS.
11. What is the extent or buffer required for biosecurity with the poultry farm being so close? This will be outlined in more detail in the EIS.  
Can the proposed entrance be looked at; it is 200 meters from a resident's house causing dust, odour and noise to the home. Could it be placed further north closer to the Poultry Farm entrance? The resident had been told previously that this wasn't an option due to the contamination to the chooks but she asked why it's ok to contaminate humans but not chooks? Bruce Logan said Council will look at the possibility to relocate the entrance to the facility so that potential negative impacts will be reduced to the resident's homes.
12. A resident residing opposite the proposed site made an offer for the Councillors to stand out the front of their home to view the site and proximity of the proposed entrance. Bruce Logan said that he would extend the offer to the Councillors following the submission of the Development Application.
13. Is there a more suitable site at Duri or anywhere else in the Tamworth region? Bruce Logan said Council has done an intensive search but this is still the most preferred site.
14. In the event of strong winds will the outside piles have dust or particles blown through the air to residents properties? Jessica Berry explained the produce will be moist so shouldn't carry in the wind. This will come down to EPA requirements and Facility operation.
15. What is the development called? Where does it fit under the current RU1 zoning? Megan Mather (TRC) said this is classified as a Designated Development and it is called a Resource Recovery Facility, the site is zoned RU1, which means the Facility is permitted only with consent. The Joint Region Panel are the consenting authority on this Project, not Council.
16. What compensation can be expected if the odour does affect residents? Bruce Logan replied Council would need to comply with conditions set by the EPA (Regulatory Authority) in the Development Consent if we are not complying then a complaint could be made to the local Armidale EPA. The EPA have lawful powers, including issuing of Fines to ensure that Council and the Facility's Operator are compliant to consent conditions.
17. How was the preliminary odour level testing conducted? What were the results? Jessica Berry explained that model testing was done. Models and maps will be in the detailed EIS.
18. What is the compliant odour level at this site to neighboring properties? EIS will detail this information.

19. What will happen to the land if the Organic Recycling Facility doesn't go ahead?  
Bruce Logan explained that the Councillor's would decide what to do with the land if the Organic Recycling Facility doesn't go ahead.
20. Can JRPP attend a Community Information Session? Bruce Logan said no he doesn't believe they will come to a Community Information Session, however, the public can attend the JRPP meeting where the decision is made, this is public meeting.
21. Have the EPA and JRPP been to the proposed site? Delegates from the Armidale EPA have been to the site, and they along with the JRPP members will go to site before making a decision on the Project.
22. Why are the maturation pads not inside to contain odour? Jessica Berry said it is an operational reason the pads are outside, she doesn't know of any facilities that have the pads inside and believes it would be harder to operate the Facility.
23. What changes will happen to curbside collection? There will be Organic Waste Collection to residents who currently have a Greenwaste Kerbside Collection. It is Council's intension to combine Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) to divert Food from being landfilled.
24. How will bones be broken down? Matt Hollis (TRC) explained that all materials will be shredded to approximately 40-50mm and batched together in the receival hall prior to being loaded into the tunnels. This material then sits within the tunnels, which is a controlled, moist and aerated environment at about 60-70 degrees for 28 days, which will not produce dust.
25. Have the Councilors been to the proposed site? Bruce Logan said he doesn't believe so.
26. Will attendees be emailed a copy of the presentation and F&Qs? Bruce Logan confirmed yes, residents that registered their email address and contact details will be contacted with information presented on the night.
27. Will attendees be emailed a copy of the EIS and the detailed design plan once available? No, residents will not be emailed a copy of the EIS and detailed design plan. However, residents will be notified when the documents are available during the exhibition period and residents will be able to download and view the documents and are welcome to make any submissions on the Project during this time.
28. Did council approach the property owner to sell or was the property on the market & did council pay double the market value with rate-payers money? Bruce Logan said Council approached the property owner and purchased the property.