

WASTE MANAGEMENT — FOOD ORGANICS AND GARDEN ORGANICS

296. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to advice currently given by the Waste Authority to local governments that packaging marked as compostable cannot be put into food organics and garden organics, or FOGO, bins and must be sent to landfill.

- (1) How does the advice that compostable packaging should not be placed in food organics and garden organics bins impact the targets of Western Australia's Plan for Plastics?
- (2) Will the government be providing a solution to compostable packaging currently being sent to landfill?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Environment, I provide the following answer.

- (1)–(2) Compostable and non-compostable packaging can look very similar, and are both present in waste collections. To avoid contamination of their products, most composting facilities do not currently accept compostable packaging. Under the Plan for Plastics, the preferred option is for people to transition to re-usable products where possible. These are more sustainable than any single-use option. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is working with the composting industry to develop a transition pathway that will allow compostable packaging to be composted, without creating contamination risks to the food organics and garden organics or FOGO waste stream.