

Survey - Setting the standard for better recycling at home

Have your say on the proposed regulations, service standard and Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).

Are you making a submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Individual

Do you support the commencement date of 1 July 2027 for the mandatory provision of all four service streams by councils and Alpine Resorts Victoria?

No

Please provide further details on your response:

- empty -

Which option would be more appropriate?

2027 for glass services and 2030 for FOGO services (base case)

Please provide further details on why you consider this option more appropriate:

I have been a local GP in the Mount Alexander Shire for the last 21 years and a recent member of YIMBY (Yes In My Backyard). I am passionate about the philosophy that Healthy communities promote healthy people supporting a healthier environment, and you can not have one without the other in the triad. My family and I have just built a new home on a block in town. Our composting system was the last thing to consider. I got my son to build the composting bays when I kept meeting our local neighbours visiting my next door neighbours composting bays with buckets of food organics to deposit. I asked my neighbour if I could deposit our compost.. I was then introduced to the wonders of YIMBY. YIMBY is locally lead, locally run and is the most amazing social network system I have experienced in our community. I am heavily involved in

our local health system and involved in a number of local health-promoting activities such as our parkrun, Get-Connected Social Prescribing and local dance studio. YIMBY facilitate a community composting system based on expert practice, utilising and teaching the complex science around proper composting. They run education workshops and have a growing population of volunteers who move around the growing hubs to ensure a flourishing community of composters. YIMBY has been celebrated on national TV and local and state members of parliament have been inspired by what is going on here. My heart sank when I received this email explaining the state government is proposing the FOGO service. I understand the science is right, the intention is there, but yet again here comes another example of the government coming in to centralise a process already thriving in a community - how very colonial of us?! The proposal takes out the community and individual engagement in the process and the very key to its success. FOGO services are all about the compost where as YIMBY is so much more. Healthy management of organics is the by product, the social connection and community engagement for individuals is what will make for greater impacts on our people and our environment. Government run programs through my experience in health care generally miss the mark, get tied down in red tape and generally fall over with the next election cycle and change of government. Let the people that matter run it and let it thrive. To this end the option to delay the FOGO services to 2030 would allow more research and support to be focussed on community-based programs like YIMBY. Support these programs to upscale and thrive. Introducing similar programs will only dilute their resources, thus diluting their effects and success.

Do you have any comments regarding the infringement or auditor provisions of the proposed regulations?

No

Do you have any other comments on the proposed regulations?

If state based FOGO services are going to move ahead I think communities and individuals need to be given the option to OPT IN or offered to Register with the local based program (eg YIMBY) . Flexibility would allow all to be managing their organics

responsibly but allowing and supporting engagement in a community network or opt for the state government process if so desired.

- empty -

Do you support the commencement date of 1 July 2027 for the service standard under section 62 of the Circular Economy Act?

Yes

Please provide further details on your response:

I do support the removal of organics from landfills across the state and am excited the government is getting behind environmentally safe waste management practices, but not to the detriment of local community-run programs. Prioritise supporting programs like YIMBY in Mount Alexander Shire.

Which option would be more appropriate?

- empty -

Please provide further details on why you consider this option more appropriate:

- empty -

Do you agree with the proposed acceptable service arrangements for FOGO?

Disagree

Please explain your answer:

The state based FOGO system from my understanding is merely providing one single bin for both food and garden organics. The aim of making it simple for householders to dump their food scraps and garden waste, is simplifying the science to the detriment of the process. Community-based programs like YIMBY mean we get the proportions right from the start, householders get educated about the process and

may even benefit from keeping the resulting high quality compost local - in our own backyards. I think this community engagement would also lead to individuals even looking at what is going out and what is going into their own bodies to even benefit healthier eating, producing their own food with building benefits for all. It is like the cliché, don't go into a village with a crate full of fish to solve the problem...teach the people to fish!

Do you agree with the proposed acceptable service arrangements for kerbside collection?

Neither agree nor disagree

Please explain your answer:

Any model would benefit from kerbside pick up of organics to make it easier for householders to be involved. The highlight of YIMBY for me is local volunteers picking up householder buckets street by street. This busy social network has become a connection point for many, even acting as a welfare check point - if the bucket isn't at the gate then the community respond by checking in. Our little corner of the street has a WhatsApp group, connecting the neighbours around our compost, but there are so many benefits. This is how the human species was meant to thrive. So our local community has a kerbside process. For state based process this would mean another coloured bin that people will just thoughtlessly dump all organics in, meaning another truck collecting service utilising resources that a community may not need as they may already have a environmentally clean process in place.

Do you agree with councils and Alpine Resorts Victoria being required to provide households with an option to opt-out of a FOGO kerbside collection service?

Strongly agree

Please explain your answer:

If a community like ours already has a model in place for high quality and community based Food and Garden organics collection and processing, that community should have the option to OPT-OUT of the proposed state based program. The opt out (or

even opt in) process would allow the government to support communities thrive without diluting an already successful model such as YIMBY.

Do you agree with the proposed acceptable service arrangements for drop-off services?

Agree

Please explain your answer:

I agree with any system that promotes a clear and streamlined process of separating waste streams. Agree with any model that proposes a safe, efficient and well evidenced process to better manage food and garden organic waste. Service needs to be accessible and sustainable for all. YIMBY in our community is striving for this model and should be supported.

Do you agree with the standard content lists for each waste and recycling stream?

Agree

Please explain your answer:

Knowledge is power. The more work is done to reduce and reuse waste through clear and evidence-based information sharing the better any model will be for individuals and the environment

Do you have any other comments regarding the proposed service standard?

Take home message from me is to support local community based programs such as YIMBY as a priority. The state-based program for FOGO services will "tick the box" for state government initiatives, but community-led and run programs will be sustainable and create greater and longer-lasting benefits for individuals and our environment.

- empty -

Do you support 'Option 4 – 2027 commencement with kerbside services where reasonably practicable' as the preferred option?

No

Please explain your answer:

I support a commencement date of 2027 for Glass and a 2030 date for FOGO that will enable local options to be fully explored. This extended timeline will enable local areas, such as the Mount Alexander Shire to fully determine the extent of local demand for a kerbside collection, when we have reliable data on home composting rates, community composting capacity - such as YIMBY.

Do you have any other comments on the Regulatory Impact Statement?

If I can just beg the state government to consider supporting local programs like YIMBY to thrive. For the greater good of our community and the health of its people. Please do not repeat the mistakes of the past thinking Government have all the answers. After 21 years of medical practice, I have come to understand that my patients do not get better if I am the expert taking over their health care. My patients thrive when I just facilitate their own understanding and hand over the responsibility to them. When the people are engaged and own the problem, the people provide the solution. YIMBY is the solution when it comes to organic waste recycling in our community.