

Shire of Capel
(08) 9727 0222
info@capel.wa.gov.au



Shire of Capel Office Hours | Monday to Friday 8am to 4:30pm

**Statement to Residents regarding revocation of previous Council Decision:
OC/2026/38 2026 – Proposed FOGO Service Solution**

Thursday 25 June 2026

FOGO waste management in the Shire of Capel

This notice is to update residents and community on recent decisions by Council relating to Food Organics, Garden Organics (FOGO) waste management in the Shire of Capel.

In December 2024, the Shire was informed the processing facility operated by the Bunbury Harvey Regional Council (BHRC), on Banksia Road, utilised by local government authorities (LGAs) across the South West region, was no longer able to accept FOGO material due to contamination issues and a breach of its licence conditions, effective immediately.

The Shire, along with the other LGAs, were therefore required to divert material collected from lime green FOGO bins to landfill.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 25 March 2026 Council resolved to support transporting collected FOGO material to a non-local processing facility, currently located in the Perth metropolitan area. Council also resolved the CEO be given permission to apply to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) for the South West FOGO Transport Rebate.

This rebate was established by the State Government as an interim support for regional areas to continue FOGO processing. The rebate, set at \$95 per tonne has been offered from 01 July 2026 through to 30 September 2028 as a short-term solution.

Since 25 March 2026 however, in considering significant financial liability due to an increase in processing and transportation costs, current contamination rates of collected FOGO material, operational and infrastructure limitations, and the high likelihood of not achieving a competitive tender for the transportation contract, the Shire now considers this option as unviable and cost prohibitive.

With the added strain of the current fuel crisis and further impending increases, the Shire is working hard to be conservative and seeking to reduce road transportation costs and associated emissions. The Shire feels it is unreasonable to impose this increase in costs onto ratepayers and our community.

The Shire believes that focusing on the longer-term outcome of a processing facility here in the South West is a far more economical option and that a continued and combined regional effort with State Government support is necessary to make this achievable.

The Shire has listened to community about cost-of-living pressures and is seeking to take a position of advocacy, alongside its neighbours, to ensure that if the State Government wants FOGO to continue in the regions, investment into the required infrastructure to process FOGO material locally is supported.

The Shire does ask our community to bear with us as we seek solutions and continue to work towards best practice. You can help us do this simply by only putting Food Organics, Garden Organics and compostable bags into the lime green FOGO bins to ensure that when processing resumes, there are not additional costs or recurring issues with facility closure due to contamination levels.

Notice to Residents

We will all need to work together to tackle the issue of waste management and in reducing FOGO contamination percentages as if a load of FOGO material collected is deemed contaminated (usually more than 3-5% of unacceptable material), it is refused at the gate.

This then means the entire load unfortunately must be sent to landfill with the Shire then liable for paying the associated cost and at risk of receiving penalty charges for high contamination levels.

For current State Government advice on what goes into your FOGO bin and information on how FOGO works visit the [WASTE SORTED](#) website.

The diverting of FOGO material to landfill, until a viable alternative is identified, will continue and the Shire acknowledges this isn't ideal. Nothing entering landfill is ideal and waste is and will continue to be an area of concern for all levels of government.

We cannot, however, commit to something that is significantly cost prohibitive and a only short-term solution. More transport. More emissions. More fuel. More cost. None of this works for the environment.

So, we need to be clear and clever on what we do moving forward. As a community, we need to consider how we can reduce the environmental impact of waste. Waste is created by whole of community, so it is a concern for the whole of community.

We encourage households to engage with the [GROW IT LOCAL](#) program partnering with the Shire, as well as other initiatives such as [THE GREAT UNWASTE](#) to educate and innovate within your households on reducing waste and developing sustainable skills such as composting.

Other campaigns such as [PLASTIC FREE JULY](#) is a great way to tackle waste as a whole household and rethink what goes into your shopping trolley and ultimately the bin.

We have established a Connect Capel page for community to access more information and direct links to helpful external resources [HERE](#) and invite community to engage, share and collaborate on all initiatives as we seek to work together to a sustainable, long-term solution for the South West.

The Shire is committed to establishing circular economies, agribusiness investment and strategic approaches to waste management as part of a wider regional effort, along with the necessary funding and support of the State Government for this level of investment.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, we invite you to email us at info@capel.wa.gov.au or by calling us on (08) 9727 0222.

ENDS