

# BioPak submission to the City of Hobart Council & Ors (Food Organics and Garden Organics) application for authorisation AA1000604 – interested party consultation

## About BioPak

BioPak, a certified B Corporation head-quartered in Sydney, produces sustainable alternatives to conventional single-use packaging for the foodservice industry, offering compostable packaging solutions made from rapidly renewable, plant-based raw materials.

All BioPak products are certified carbon-neutral, which means that carbon emissions associated with the production, transport and disposal of our products have been offset. We give back 5% of profits to positive change and work with conservation organisations to protect rainforests.

We design our products for a circular economy – where resources are reused, not wasted. In 2018, BioPak launched its own compost service in Australia and New Zealand – an organics recycling collection service designed to divert more food and packaging waste from landfill and combat climate change. In 2021, we received a grant from the National Product Stewardship Investment Fund to grow our network of composters that accept compostable packaging and to support businesses looking for compostable packaging as plastic bans come into effect. The resulting web-based platform can be found here:

<https://www.compostconnect.org/>

## The importance of Food Organics and Garden Organics collections

Diverting FoGo (Food Organics and Garden Organic) from landfill is a well-documented and relatively simple [solution](#) to fight climate change as it reduces methane emissions from landfill. It's therefore a necessary and important step in achieving the nation's Net Zero targets. It's also an effective way to alleviate the current waste crisis in Australia, while creating a new resource (nutrient-rich compost) which will help restore soil health and fight the effect of droughts.

BioPak strongly believe that the implementation of FoGo collections by all councils in Australia is an important and urgent contribution to meet the Paris Agreement targets and limit global warming. It also fits into a Circular Economy model, where waste is turned into new resources.

## Inclusion of Certified Compostable Packaging

Single-Use Plastic bans are being implemented across the country and banned packaging is being replaced by acceptable packaging that includes fibre or timber-based and certified compostable alternatives. The Single-Use Plastic ban recently passed by the City of Hobart includes the following acceptable alternatives: wooden cutlery, paper-straws, PLA-lined paper cups and bowls, clear PLA containers and moulded sugarcane containers. These products can be safely composted by industrial composting facilities, along with the food waste they often contain.

BioPak therefore advocates for the inclusion of certified compostable (to Australian compostability standards AS 4736 or AS 5810) packaging used for food service into the council's tender requirements. This will:

- provide an appropriate end-of-life solution for these products that are meant to replace polluting plastic alternatives;
- ensure that clean (not soiled with food waste) plastics waste streams are not contaminated;
- simplify waste management for many food service businesses (one single bin for all food and take-away packaging, no need to scrape food waste off) and consumers.