

# Straw poll?

- How many of you know what FOGO stands for?
- How many of you understand what a Food Organics, Garden Organics service covers?
- How many of you have a FOGO service where you live?
- How many of you wish you had a FOGO service?

*Sample bag time!*

# Small Change Big Difference

## Randwick's FOGO journey and lessons learnt

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# WHY?

## annual FOGO numbers .....

..... Australians throw out 7.6 million tonnes of food (enough to fill the MCG 9 times)

..... food waste costs us all \$36.6 billion

..... around 30% of food waste is from households

..... 40% of the average household red-lid bin is food



# FOGO potential *(imperative?)* across Local Government

- 537 local Councils (Aust)
- 128 local Councils (NSW)
- FOGO for Local Councils by 2030
- Potentially saving \$250M in landfill costs
- Potential reduction of 5.25M tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>.  
Food waste results in approx 8% of  
greenhouse gas emissions

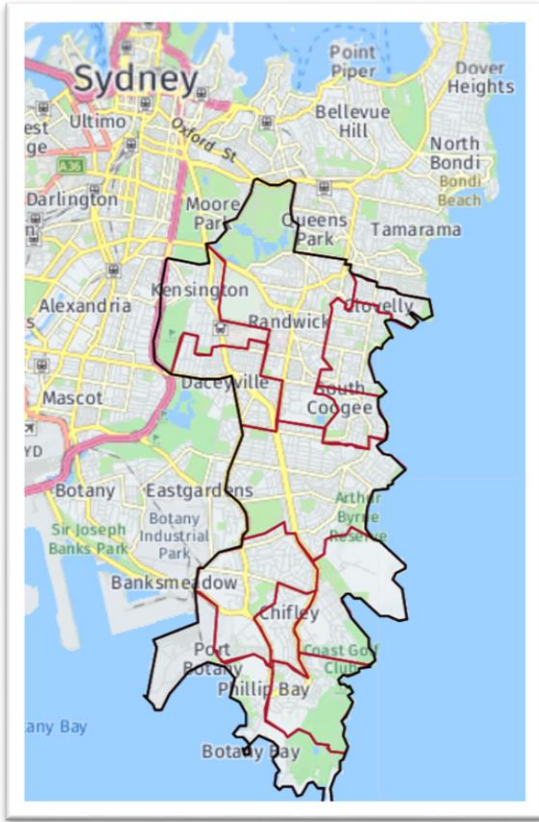


# Pre- start-up assumptions - industry / local Councils

- Industry capability / Processing capacity
- Regulatory approvals
- Procurement capability & ordering time for LG, i.e. tendering, evaluation, approval, roll-out
- Timing of existing contracts
- Funding FOGO service / infrastructure (waste levy / external grants / other)
- End product – markets for FOGO material
- Community expectations including Councils



# Back in Randwick



- Land Area: 36 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population: 155,000
- 60,000 households (>65% MuDs)
- Transient and diverse community, multi-lingual, UNSW students, public housing (~ 50% are renting)

# Why in Randwick

- NSW Government targets
- Waste Management Strategy 2017-2030
- Previous trial of FOGO in MUDs
- Changes in regulations – Revocation of Mixed Waste Organic Outputs Exemption Order



# Why in Randwick

- Enthusiastic community
- Council decided to make FOGO happen
- Development of new waste contract (10 years)
- External EPA grants (> \$2M)

*(Cosmic alignment?)*



# How in Randwick

- All bin replacement including RFIDs
- FOGO Welcome pack: Caddies and Liners delivered to all households
- Changes in collection frequency of red and green bins
- Comprehensive 3-staged education program
- FOGO is processed at Veolia's Woodlawn composting facility



# Lessons Learnt

- Planning lead time including procurement
- Funding / budget / waste levy / grants
- New bins or old bins / Bin roll-out / RFIDs
- Changes to collection frequency
- Supporting infrastructure – caddies, bags, RFIDs
- Communication / education incl. all stakeholders
- Internal staffing resources (increase ~ 6 staff)
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting – where's the data – getting reliable feedback.



# Current Challenges

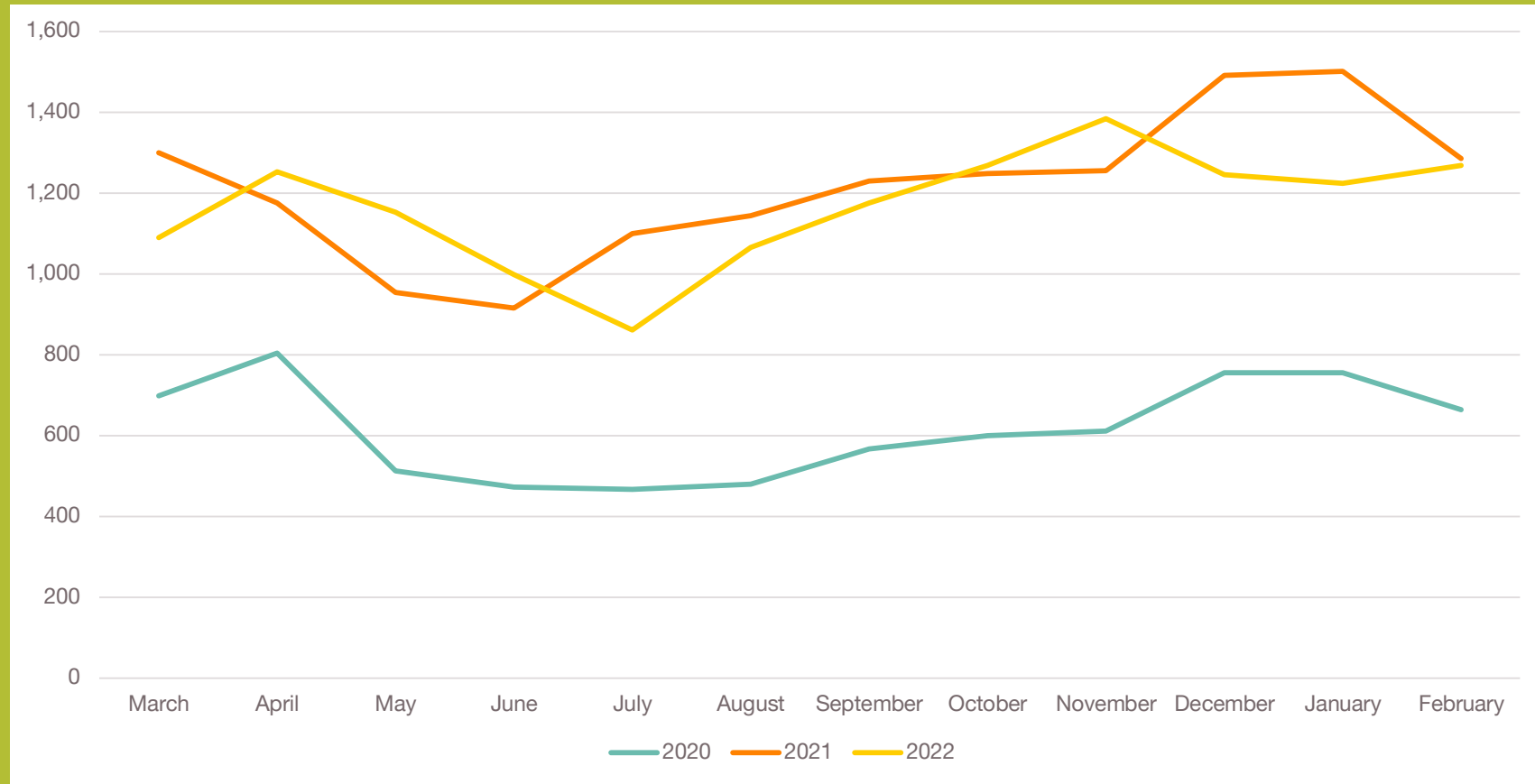
- Shifting goal posts (*regulatory*)
- Processing capability (*ongoing*) and technology changes (*still to come*)
- Contamination (*soft-plastics, compostable bags*)
- Market drivers / end products *i.e. (Circularity)*
- Cost pressures (*caddies & bags*)
- Community engagement (*winning hearts & minds*)
- Community expectations (*War on Waste*)



Is it worth it -  
results



## 98% increase in green-lid bin content

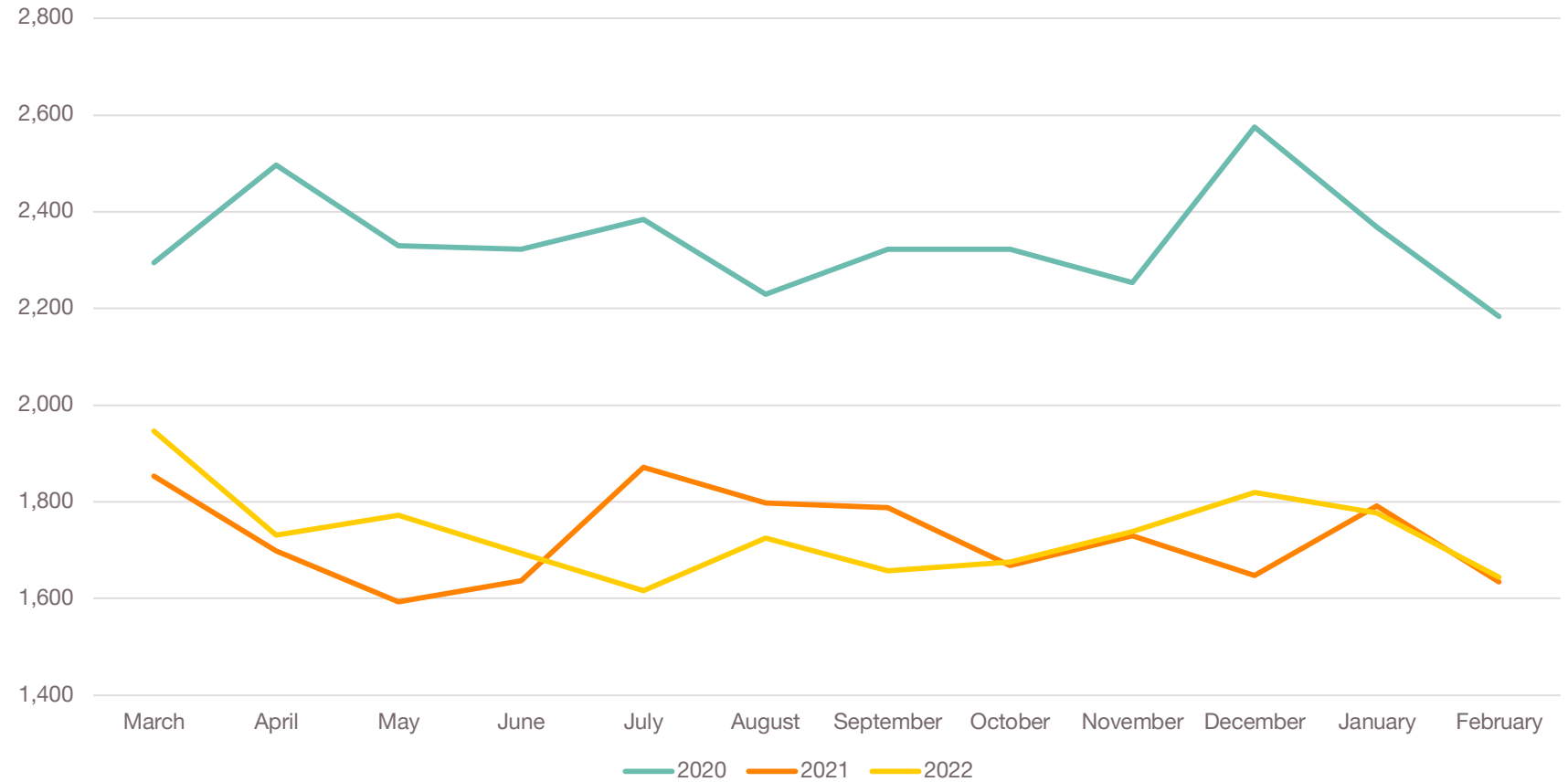


**29,000 tonnes**  
collected & processed in 2 years with only  
**1.5% contamination**

# Is it worth it - results



## 26% reduction in general waste tonnage to landfill



**Landfill diversion of >7,000 tonnes / year**

# Summary

- 60,000 households successfully serviced weekly (approx. 35% MuDs, 65% single dwellings)
- 29,000 tonnes of FOGO diverted, with significant \$ savings and reductions in greenhouse
- Community has embraced FOGO with a passion (and tells us so!)
- Peer recognition across LG (various awards)
- Demonstrates leadership and good governance to meet env'al / social / economic goals (SDGs)



# Questions

# Randwick LGA

Land area

36.33 km<sup>2</sup>

Population

155,000

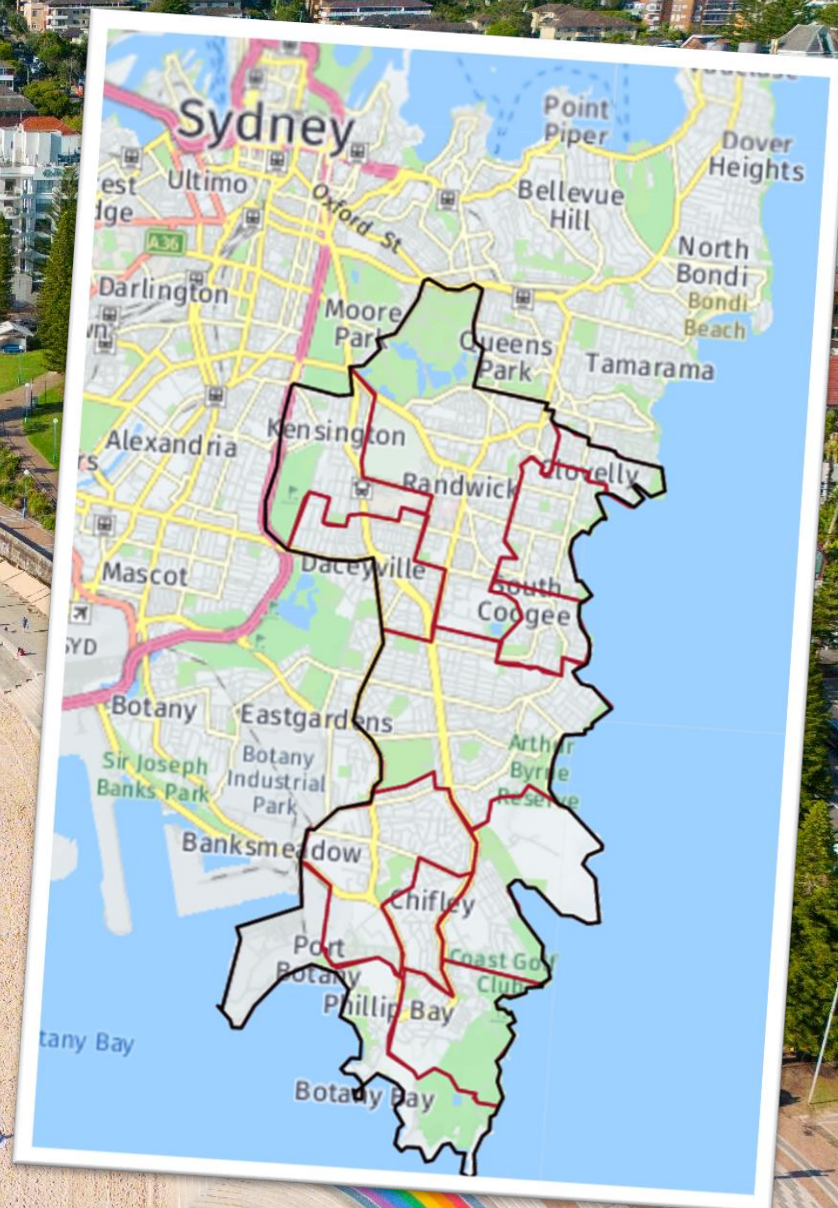
Dwellings

60,000

Dwelling Type

35% SUD

65% MUD





# The Journey to FOGO

- 2013 – Food Waste Trial in MUDs
- 2015 – Red bins audits - 38% food waste and 11% other organics
- 2017 – Waste Management Strategy 2017-2030
- 2018 – EPA revocation of Mixed Waste Organic Outputs (MWOO) Exemption Order
- 2019 – Consultation with the Community – 55% support FOGO implementation
- 2020 – New Waste Collection Tender Adopted
- Jan 21 and Feb 21 – New Bin Rollout
- March 2021 – New Collection Service Starts

**YOUR SAY RANDWICK** Food waste

**6 out of 10** support food waste collection

**55%** support food and garden organics collection in same bin

**About food waste**

Nearly 40% of general household rubbish collected in Randwick City is comprised of food waste. If food scraps are collected, they can be composted and used as nature intended, for enriching soil and growing more food. They can even be processed to create Biogas which generates clean, green electricity.

Council has been trialling food waste collection for a number of years. Participating households use a small kitchen bin caddy lined with a compostable bag to collect scraps. The bags are then placed into burgundy-lidded bins for weekly collection – just like your rubbish and recycling. Food waste can also be collected in your green-lidded garden organics bin along with organic material, rather than supplying a separate bin.

Under this model the food scraps/garden organics bin could be collected weekly and the red-lidded rubbish bin (without food in it) collected fortnightly.

**About the survey**

**4,593 responses**

Survey was open from 24 July to 3 September 2019 and includes 66% hard copy and 34% online surveys received from Randwick City ratepayers and residents.

**We love listening to you!**

Get involved and have your say at Your Say Randwick.  
[yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au](http://yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au)

1300 722 542  
[randwick.nsw.gov.au](http://randwick.nsw.gov.au)

**SORT IT OUT!**

Randwick City Council

# Our Community

- High transient population: 55.3% of people moved from elsewhere.
- 32% speak other languages at home. The top 5 languages being Mandarin, Spanish, Greek, Russian and Indonesian.
- The largest group by age is 20 to 39 years old (37.4%).
- 14,000+ students at university or other tertiary institutions in the LGA
- 4,000+ public housing properties
- In the summer months Randwick welcomes visitors from across the globe leading to a population increase
- The Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples are the traditional custodians of the Randwick area.



# New FOGO service



**Multi-Unit Dwellings :**

**Weekly**  
(From Fortnightly to Weekly)



**Weekly**  
(No Change)



**Single-Unit Dwellings :**

**Weekly**  
(From Fortnightly to Weekly)



**Fortnightly**  
(From Weekly to Fortnightly)\*



\* size of red bin increased from 140L to 240L

## FOGO is processed at Veolia's Woodlawn processing facility

# FOGO Community Education and Engagement Program

Small  
Change  
**Big  
Difference**

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From March 2021



# Stakeholders

- Residents of SUDs and MUDs - property owners, owner-occupiers and renters
- Public housing residents
- Building management (real estate, strata managers, body corporate and cleaners)
- CALD communities
- School and UNSW students
- Local community groups (e.g. precincts, local suburb Facebook groups, etc.)
- Media (mainstream & social media)
- Summer visitors
- Randwick Council internal stakeholders (customer service centre, waste operational team, precinct and community services, waste contractor, communications team, events officers)



# Education Program Snapshot

- 110+ educational collaterals
- 25+ print and digital advertising items
- 30+ items of website & digital marketing
- 13 videos
- 50+ events delivered and engaged more than 11,000 participants.
- Targeted education elements and materials translated in 5 languages
- Costa Georgiadis, our FOGO ambassador
- Friends of FOGO

FOGO FAQ Live with Costa



Truck decals



Pop Up Stalls



Outdoor advertisement



Community magazine articles & Ads



Friends of FOGO



Posters



# Key Lessons Learned

- Allow sufficient planning time, trial roll-out, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Sufficient staffing resources across Council teams
- Ongoing communication and education with customer service support
- Bin and caddy and liner ordering / production / delivery times
- Early commitment to types of bins, caddies, caddy liners, educational and communication follow-up
- Accounting for results, benefits and problem resolution (community surveys, audits, bin RFIDs)

