

**WORKS APPROVAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Application No.	1003682
Applicant Name	Pinegro Products Pty Ltd
Address of Premises	300 Monash Way Morwell VIC 3840
Proposal	Upgrade and expansion to Composting Facility
Scheduled Category	A07 Organic Waste Processing

Executive Summary

Pinegro Products Pty Ltd have operated a composting facility at 300 Monash Way Morwell since 1995. In April 2020 Pinegro submitted a works approval application to EPA seeking to increase capacity from 75,000 to 95,000 tonnes per annum. Organic waste feedstocks would be altered to include combined Food Organics/Green Organics (FOGO), Biosolids and Commercial food waste and decrease the amount of Pinebark/Sawdust. The works approval application included an enclosed receival building in which the organic waste would be decontaminated, mixed and shredded. Composting would be in 5 enclosed aerated concrete vessels. Air from the receival building and the composting vessels would be extracted through an acid scrubber and a biofilter to remove odorous gasses. The compost would be processed at 55 to 65 degrees for a minimum of 3 days to pasteurise the compost. Compost would be matured in turned windrows prior to being screened and sold. Compost currently produced at the facility is independently accredited as meeting the voluntary Australian Compost Standard.

The proposal is for a 27% increase in quantity of feedstock and significantly increasing the control and management of the composting process by fully enclosing processing and composting. The proposed biosolids and commercial food waste each represent 5% of the feedstock and will be processed in an enclosed environment. The location of the facility will help to minimise risks as the nearest sensitive receptors are 1.85 km away. Odour risks will be managed by air removal and treatment with evidence of 95.6% odour removal being achieved at a reference facility. The in-vessel composting process will be controlled through an automated management system that will adjust air flow, moisture, and temperature to maximise the composting efficiency. After the works have been completed the newly constructed facilities and equipment will be required to go through EPA mandated commissioning to demonstrate claimed performance. Testing of the compost to ensure it meets chemical, biological, and physical contamination standards has been proposed and be required during commissioning.

EPA advertised the application for public comment and 4 submissions were received, 3 of which indicated support for the proposal. EPA has also consulted directly with submitters.

EPA's assessment determined that the proposal meets best practice requirements of the Environment Protection Act 1970, relevant policies, regulations, and guidelines and on 21 August 2020 EPA granted a works approval with conditions.