

Question on Notice

No. 929

Asked on Wednesday, 21 August 2024

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the 22 sites which have agreed to the PFAS limits as detailed in the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee Estimates Hearing (listed on page 123 of the transcript)—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many of these sites compost organic material and (b) of those undertaking composting, is the composting regarded as their main activity or is it an ancillary activity to other operations?

ANSWER:

All of the 22 sites that have agreed to the PFAS limits, as detailed in the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee Estimates Hearing for the Environment, Great Barrier Reef, Science and Innovation portfolio on 25 July 2024, are authorised through environmental authorities to compost organic materials under environmentally relevant activity ERA 53 Organic material processing (ERA 53).

ERA 53 consists of operating a facility for processing, by way of composting or anaerobic digestion, more than 200 tonnes of organic material in a year.

Twenty sites are authorised to conduct organic material processing as either their only activity, in conjunction with other activities such as mechanical waste processing to prepare feedstocks that optimise the composting process, or as a mixed-use business in conjunction with a range of waste related and extraction and crushing activities. The remaining two sites undertake the primary activity of meat processing (abattoir) and are authorised to conduct composting of organic wastes generated at the facility to manage their waste and avoid disposal to landfill. One of these sites is also able to receive additional organic feedstocks to optimise the composting process.