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MEDIA RELEASE

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GRANTS UP TO \$5 MILLION TO ENCOURAGE PROCESSING OF ORGANIC WASTE

Environment Minister Mark Speakman today announced that applications for grants of up to \$5,000,000 are now open for businesses, government and not-for-profit organisations, for equipment and infrastructure that reduces the amount of food and garden organic waste going to landfill.

The third round of the Organics Infrastructure Grants Program, from the NSW Environmental Trust and the Environment Protection Authority, aims to deliver on the Government's objective of reducing the amount of waste that ends up in NSW landfill.

"These grants aim to reduce the cost of disposing of more than 1,000,000 tonnes of organic waste that goes to landfill in NSW every year, Mr Speakman said.

"Organisations that manage food and garden waste often face high disposal costs. This grants program can help businesses with government contributions of up to 50 per cent of the costs of the equipment and infrastructure needed to increase on-site processing of their waste.

"Not-for-profit organisations can apply for up to 90 per cent of their equipment and infrastructure needs.

The grants allow the recipients to purchase equipment such as on-site composting systems and food re-packaging equipment or to get upgrades to mulching and shredding operations.

"Past rounds of this grants program have supported 35 projects with \$23.7 million in funding."

Applications are invited across four streams:

Stream 1 Food and Garden Organics Processing – For new and enhanced infrastructure to process food, garden or combined food and garden organics from households and/or businesses.

Stream 2 Business Organics Recycling – For equipment to process organics on-site at large businesses and institutions, such as prisons, universities and aged care facilities.

Stream 3 Food Donation – To fund infrastructure to facilitate the collection and redistribution of edible food waste from businesses to people in need.

Stream 4 Home Composting – To fund small infrastructure such as compost bins and/or worm farms to enhance council organics management and home composting programs.

Information sessions and webinars will be held over the coming weeks, including information on how to apply, changes to the guidelines and forms from previous grant rounds, answers to frequently asked questions and tips on writing a good application.

Applications close on 1 December 2015

For more information, to register for a webinar or to download applications forms go to:

www.epa.nsw.gov.au/wastegrants/organic-large-small.htm

The Organics Infrastructure Grants Program is part of the NSW Government's *Waste Less, Recycle More* five-year \$465.7 million package to transform waste and recycling in NSW.