



**AUSTRALIAN  
WATER**  
—  
ASSOCIATION

Australian & New Zealand  
**Biosolids Partnership**

# Strategic Plan

2024 - 2027

## Context

The wastewater sector is an essential service, treating sewage from domestic and trade waste (including commercial, industrial and landfill) sources to recover valued resources (including biosolids and recycled water) for beneficial reuse. In an increasingly resource constrained world, the capacity to return the valuable nutrients (including phosphorus, nitrogen, carbon and a range of micronutrients such as calcium and magnesium) and beneficial microbes in biosolids to soils is a critical pillar of global sustainability and the circular economy.

Sustainable biosolids management must balance the multiple considerations of public health, resource recovery, cost considerations and the significant direct and indirect environmental benefits of beneficial use of biosolids, with the risks associated with managing contaminants in the environment. To support this balance, ANZBP promotes regulation based on robust, field-demonstrated evidence proportional to the wider risks, exposures and background environmental levels of contaminants, and for source control to address the root cause of contaminants entering the environment.

In addition, it is becoming increasingly important to increase awareness and understanding within the community of biosolids benefits and how biosolids risks are effectively managed to protect public health and the environment.

ANZBP is a coordinated and representative industry body that promotes, supports and enables sustainable biosolids management to provide:

- A clear, strong voice for effective representation of industry positions to government and non-government stakeholders including on biosolids regulations and sustainable management practices.
- Advocacy for resource recovery in biosolids to recycle valuable nutrients and organic matter, improve soil condition, reduce landfill and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.
- Support for improvements in sewage treatment processes, as increased population densities are leading to the production of larger quantities of biosolids – this is a growth opportunity area.
- Information to enable the industry to carry out technical, financial and social assessments of biosolids management options.
- Clear, effective, unbiased information and messaging to diverse groups in the community.



## Introduction

The Australian & New Zealand Biosolids Partnership (ANZBP), established in 2008, is an AWA Industry Program that promotes, supports and enables sustainable biosolids management in an evolving social and regulatory environment.

Interested parties from across the entire biosolids value chain including utilities, consultants, researchers, end users, biosolids management companies, biosolids processors, biosolids transporters, technology providers, regulators and government bodies are eligible to be ANZBP members.

## AWA and ANZBP

The Australian Water Association (AWA) is Australia's biggest water network, inspiring and driving a sustainable water future. AWA facilitates the exchange of ideas and tools, connects people with purpose, and inspires positive change.



### SHARE

information and  
knowledge



### CONNECT

members with industry  
and stakeholders



### INSPIRE

positive change

The ANZBP is one of the AWA Industry Programs which aims to empower their subscribers:

- by providing a platform to combine their voices and expertise
- to collectively address challenges
- to understand and respond to emerging trends
- to drive towards a sustainable water future.



## Vision

That biosolids are managed in a way that achieves the most resilient, environmentally and socially sustainable outcome.

## Mission

The Australian and New Zealand Biosolids Partnership supports, advocates for and enables technologies, regulation and opportunities that allow biosolids to contribute to the circular economy in an evolving environment.

## Strategic Objectives

That ANZBP is recognised as the voice of the biosolids community in Australia and New Zealand by all stakeholders across the value chain and that regulators are highly engaged and informed.

That the biosolids industry can network and be fully informed of the latest community attitudes, technologies, contributing to circular economy outcomes and research in relation to sustainable management.

That social licence is strengthened by promoting the sustainable and resilient use of biosolids and a better understanding of First Nations principles and world view, and Te Ao Māori and mātauranga Māori in relation to biosolids.



## Strategic Activities

**That ANZBP is recognised as the voice of the biosolids community in Australia and New Zealand by all stakeholders across the value chain and that regulators are highly engaged and informed by** including, but not limited to:

- Ensuring submissions are made on all relevant regulatory changes
- Proactive engagement with all stakeholders and the community in general to promote the sustainable and resilient use of biosolids
- Annual member survey to understand member satisfaction, issues and interests

Metrics – increased numbers and more diverse membership and participation in ANZBP activities (conference, lunch & learns etc)

**That the biosolids industry can network and be fully informed of the latest community attitudes, technologies, trends in circular economy and research in relation to sustainable management by** including, but not limited to:

- Commissioning biennial production and end-use survey
- Commissioning community attitudes survey
- Partnering with research institutions
- Participating in international biosolids community activities
- Open lunch and learn sessions (4-6 per year)
- Biennial public conference
- Coffee & Cake ANZBP member sessions (4-6 per year)
- Newsletters (6 per year)
- Biosolids representation at Ozwater
- Regular LinkedIn posts (promoting events, new members & articles of interest)

Metrics – that activities are carried out at the proposed frequency and that attendance and engagement numbers grow

**That social licence is strengthened by promoting the sustainable and resilient use of biosolids and a better understanding of First Nations principles and world view, and Te Ao Māori and mātauranga Māori in relation to biosolids** by including, but not limited to:

- Producing and sharing up to date, easy to read and access information and educational and training materials
- Explore opportunities to engage with First Nations peoples and Tangata Whenua on biosolids

Metrics – that by 2027 we have a measurable increased engagement with educational materials, there is a positive shift noted in the community attitudes survey, materials are produced sharing First Nations and Tangata Whenua views on biosolids



## Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles underpin all ANZBP's activities and communications:

- ANZBP acknowledges First Nations and Tangata Whenua ongoing connection with the land and water.
- ANZBP adheres to the principles of the circular economy and considers biosolids and related products as valuable resources to be recovered and reused.
- ANZBP is committed to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, our strategic objectives help to advance Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation, Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production and Goal 13 – Climate Action.
- Information published by ANZBP will be factual, unbiased and aligned with ANZBP's mission.
- ANZBP advocates for the sustainable use of biosolids based on the best available science and consistent with ANZBP's mission.
- ANZBP will engage constructively and collaboratively with all ANZBP partners and stakeholders and inclusive of diverse views and approaches to biosolids management.
- ANZBP will provide accessible material to raise awareness and educate the wider community regarding the benefits of biosolids.

