



Australian & New Zealand  
Biosolids Partnership

# INFORMATION BROCHURE

February 2011



## Context

There are enormous social pressures on beneficial uses of biosolids in Australia, New Zealand and internationally. Australia and New Zealand currently produce approximately 303,000 dry tonnes of biosolids annually. Approximately 55% is applied to agricultural land and around 30% is disposed of in landfill or stockpiled. The remaining 15% is used in composting, forestry, land rehabilitation or incinerated. Currently, the average cost for biosolids management is in the order of \$300/dry tonne, which equates to about \$90m per year.

The cost of managing biosolids in Australia and New Zealand will increase dramatically if fit-for-purpose uses (e.g. application to agricultural land or composting) were derailed by misinformation. Those beneficial uses which are currently well accepted must be maintained, and investigation undertaken into novel technologies and other alternatives supported. To address these matters key stakeholders from the water utility and regulatory sectors came together in 2006 and decided to form an industry body that would tackle projects and issues that would be difficult for any one organisation to address. In 2007, the Australian Water Association (AWA) took up that proposal and secured funding support from 33 organisations to make the *Australian and New Zealand Biosolids Partnership* (ANZBP) a reality. The ANZBP is a program of the AWA, and provides a project manager to implement the partnership, and its agreed business plan.

## Background

The ANZBP's primary purpose is to support the water industry in informing both the industry and the wider community on appropriate biosolids management. It follows that it is the responsibility of the Australian and New Zealand water industry to provide the majority of the financial support to enable the ANZBP to undertake the components required to achieve its purpose.

The benefits to the water industry are wide-ranging. More informed regulators; improved perception of biosolids by all stakeholders, efficient use of industry resources (across New Zealand & Australia); more effective community engagement strategies, a comprehensive biosolids knowledge base; and a network of biosolids experts. Ultimately, the ANZBP will assist the biosolids industry and biosolids managers make informed decisions regarding biosolids management.

The objectives of the ANZBP are to:

- Support public engagement with respect to the sustainable management of biosolids in both Australia and New Zealand
- Support the Australian and New Zealand water industry on technical components of biosolids management
- Establish a global network of parties interested in the sustainable management of biosolids.

These objectives will be achieved by:

- Interaction with national organisations to promote awareness of biosolids management
- Engagement with stakeholders to help them make informed decisions regarding biosolids management
- Development of community engagement tools for subscribers
- Connection with international organisations similar to the ANZBP to establish a global network of those interested in the sustainable management of biosolids
- Formation of relationships with technical experts from across Australia and New Zealand
- Provision of contacts for technical advice on biosolids related concerns/issues.
- Linkages with companies working in all areas of biosolids production and management
- Maintenance of the ANZBP Website – both the subscriber and public sites
- Provision of legal support and tools for subscribers
- Advocate for the regulatory consistency throughout the region
- Liaison with relevant Cooperative Research Centres, Crown Research Institutes and like research organizations

## Key Achievements

The ANZBP has progressively built up its knowledge base during its existence, having completed a number of research projects in recent years. Major resources of the ANZBP include the following:

- *A Review of Biosolids Guidelines in Australian and New Zealand* which includes recommendations for development of a model regulation to align State biosolids management guidelines
- *A Community Attitudinal Survey* to identify matters of critical concern to affected and general communities, who they see as the most credible sources of information.
- *A Legal Register* documenting all of the regulatory and legislative requirements for biosolids management Australia-wide.
- *A Literature Compendium* of current research in biosolids downstream of the point of stabilisation.
- An investigation of *Australian and New Zealand Biosolids Production and End Use*, the first accurate research done in quantifying the source, processing method and final end-use of biosolids produced nationally.

Total cost of development of these resources is in excess of \$300,000. New members, upon subscription get immediate access to these resources and added tools. Each of the above is available exclusively to Partnership members, protecting the value of subscription.

## Communication

The key communication and information sharing component of the ANZBP is the website [www.biosolids.com.au](http://www.biosolids.com.au), launched in April 2008. The website is structured with a section open to the general public and a section that is password-protected and is available only to Subscribers. The information on the website was developed by an industry steering committee and is extremely comprehensive and building. The website is regularly updated with material including technical data, latest research, case studies and other reference material from Australia, New Zealand and internationally. The website ensures the community and all stakeholders have easy access to factually correct information and help the water industry to provide informed input into biosolids management projects in affected communities. It will also identify key spokespersons, outline a community engagement framework and provide a toolbox for community engagement.

## Business and Funding Structure

The funding model is a subscription structure. The water industry provides the greater portion of the operational funding, with contributions from regulators, research institutions, private companies involved in biosolids management and other firms. Regulator support is also important and some state government departments have already committed support for the Partnership. It is recognised that research institutions are net seekers of funds rather than providers, but nominal financial support is desirable to demonstrate commitment to the ANZBP.

In order to provide resources to engage a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties across Australia and New Zealand, provide technical support to members and to continually update and maintain the ANZBP website requires over \$200,000 per year. By spreading the costs across the Australian and New Zealand water industry the contribution from individual organisations is very reasonable.

The amount being sought as an annual subscription, to be paid for the period of three years, is based upon the number of employees in the enterprise. Organisations with business units that do not work in the water industry can exclude these when determining organisational size.

To ensure the sustainability of the Program, a three year commitment is sought in the first instance. To subscribe to the ANZBP, please complete the Subscription Agreement, contained within the accompanying document *ANZBP Proposal*.

## ANZBP Governance and Management

As the ANZBP's primary purpose is to support the water industry in informing both the industry and the wider community on appropriate biosolids management, the ultimate ownership resides with the water industry which provides the majority of the financial support to enable the ANZBP to undertake the many components of the program outlined above.

It is important to demonstrate regulator and government support at both federal and state levels and maintain close liaison with relevant research and academic institutions whose research outcomes will be critical in establishing the technical credibility of biosolids management approaches. The AWA has a Biosolids Specialist Network with several hundred members and holds a biennial Biosolids Specialty Conference. In addition, AWA's Water Education Network provides an important and complementary function for industry and the wider community.

The ANZBP is guided by an Advisory Board, which includes representatives from key participants including AWA, utilities, regulators, research organisations and others. It comprises:

- Kevin Conna – Manager, Operation Services, Sydney Water Corporation
- Paul Darvodelsky – PSD Ltd
- Brendan Hanigan – Southern Water, Tasmania
- Karen Campisano – Team Leader, Strategy Development, Melbourne Water
- Stephen Lansdell – Project Coordinator – Water, Environmental Strategies, EPA Victoria
- Michael Makestas – Principal Wastewater Process Engineer, SA Water
- Mike McLaughlin – Chief Research Scientist, CSIRO Land and Water;
- Michael Naughton – Coordinator, Recycled Water and Biosolids, Barwon Water, Victoria
- Nancy Penney – Biosolids Strategist, Water Corporation (Chair)
- Tom Mollenkopf – Chief Executive, Australian Water Association (ex officio member)

**Nancy Penney is the Advisory Board's Chair.** The ANZBP Project Manager is Gregory Priest, AWA Project Manager - Sustainability.

Current subscribers of the ANZBP are:

[Australian Water Association](#)

[Advanced Water Management Centre](#)

[Arkwood Organic Recycling](#)

[Barwon Water, VIC](#)

[Cairns Regional Council, Qld](#)

[Carbon Mate Pty Ltd](#)

[Central Highlands Water, VIC](#)

[Coliban Water, VIC](#)

[CSIRO](#)

[Curtin University](#)

[Department of Environment and Conservation, WA](#)

[Department of Health, VIC](#)

[Department of Sustainability and Environment, VIC](#)

[DLA Phillips Fox](#)

[East Gippsland Water, VIC](#)

[Environment Protection Authority, Vic](#)

[Environment Protection Authority, Tasmania](#)

[Gippsland Water](#)

[Gladstone Regional Council](#)

[Gosford City Council, NSW](#)

[Goulburn Valley Water, VIC](#)

[Grow Green Agri, VIC](#)

[GWM Water, VIC](#)

[Hunter Water](#)

[Lower Murray Water, VIC](#)

[Melbourne Water, VIC](#)

[New Plymouth District Council, NZ](#)

[North East Water, VIC](#)

[Pollution Solutions & Designs](#)

[Power and Water, NT](#)

[RMIT - Biotechnology & Environmental Biology](#)

[SA Water](#)

[South East Water, VIC](#)

[South Gippsland Water, VIC](#)

[Southern Water, Tas](#)

[Sustainability Victoria](#)

[Sydney Water, NSW](#)

[Tauranga City Council, NZ](#)

[VicWater](#)

[Wannon Water, VIC](#)

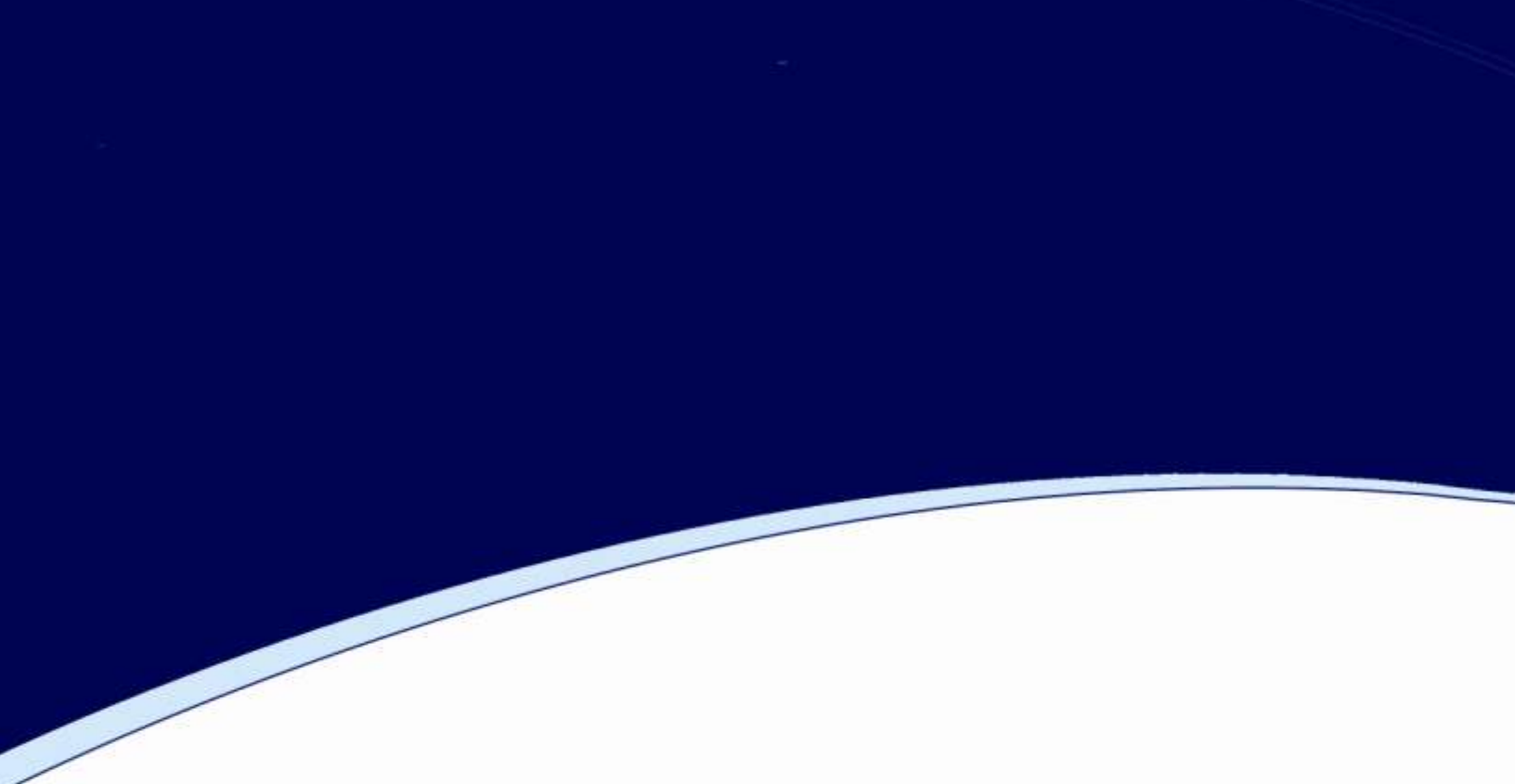
[Water Corporation of WA](#)

[Watercare, NZ](#)

[Western Water, VIC](#)

[Westernport Water, VIC](#)

[Yarra Valley Water, VIC](#)



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