



Australian and New Zealand Biosolids Partnership

E-News

The Australian and New Zealand Biosolids Partnership (ANZBP) supporting sustainable management of biosolids in Australia and New Zealand

We are pleased to provide you with a newsletter reporting on significant issues, events and new resources in biosolids management as well as recent progress in the ANZBP projects.

As specialists working in biosolids management, you are invited to share information on biosolids developments within your locality, as well as resources and activities that may be valuable to other ANZBP subscribers. These contributions, plus your comments on this E-news or the ANZBP website (www.biosolids.com.au) can be forwarded to the ANZBP Project Team - admin@biosolids.com.au

Welcome

Welcome to the new edition of the Newsletter of the Australian and New Zealand Biosolids Partnership. The ANZBP is becoming increasingly valued with membership currently numbering forty-nine. This level of support has both ensured the security of operation of the ANZBP; and provided the ability to deliver quality projects that address the needs of subscribers.

It was great to see the ANZBP strongly represented at the successful Biosolids V Specialty Conference (Sydney, June 2010). Indeed it seemed that every second presentation made mention of the value of the ANZBP. We were also fortunate to have a number of our friends from New Zealand attending and presenting. Specific thanks go to Alice Skipper (DLA Phillips Fox) for launching the Biosolids Legal Register, and to Brent Manning (New Plymouth District Council, NZ) for presenting a case study on how NPDC manages and markets a biosolids product.

The ANZBP website has recently suffered some technical glitches, seemingly caused by a hacker (presumably with a keen interest in biosolids management). You may have had difficulty logging on to the website during the month of July, however the problem has now been resolved, and we apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused in accessing materials on the website.

Finally, welcome to our new members, including some we've been keen to have join us:

- Arkwood Organic Recycling (Biosolids Management Solutions)
- Grow Green Agri (Biosolids Management Solutions)
- ESR Ltd (a New Zealand Crown Research Institute)

Update on Key Projects

Australian Biosolids Legal Register

The ANZBP *Legal Register* was launched by DLA Phillips Fox Solicitor Alice Skipper at the Biosolids V Specialty Conference held in Sydney in early June. Alice's presentation outlined the purpose of the Legal Register, demonstrated how to search the Register and stepped through some case study examples demonstrating when an organisation would find it suitable to search the Register.

For ease of use, the Register has been published online with each Australian jurisdiction forming a separate chapter. The register will be updated to include New Zealand in coming months.

The Register can be found on the ANZBP Subscribers website under the "*Technical Resources*" tab.

Literature Compendium

The ANZBP Project Team has received a draft of the *Literature Compendium* and is currently reviewing it, prior to making it available to subscribers. The Literature Compendium documents progress in biosolids management practices and research developments in Australia and New Zealand from the past 5 years, as well as planned research. The Compendium consists of a discussion paper which reviews the literature, and a searchable database which categorises the publications. The Compendium will be a valuable asset for researchers with technical matters to address, as well as tool for policy and communications officers.

Community Attitudinal Survey

The ANZBP Project Team has also received a draft of the *Community Attitudinal Survey (Stage 2 Report)*. This report analyses the outcomes of a community survey process, which identified general community attitudes towards biosolids/ biosolids use. Surveyed persons were grouped into two categories, 'affected' (i.e. living in close proximity to biosolids management facilities) and 'unaffected' communities. Interesting facts from the survey include the following insights:

- Members of the affected group are more positively disposed toward biosolids use than the unaffected community.
- Farmers are notably more likely to buy products grown on land on which biosolids are applied than the rest of the community.

Stage 2 builds upon the work completed in the first phase, which identified key biosolids issues through dialogue with primary stakeholders.

Both the *Community Attitudinal Survey* and *Literature Compendium* will be finalised and made available on the Subscribers website in August.

Biosolids Data Collection Project

This project will develop an accurate and comprehensive data-set of Biosolids Production and End Uses for Australia and New Zealand. The data will be analysed and summarised in a report for publication on the ANZBP Subscribers' website. The information to be collected from WWTPs (where available) is:

1. Biosolids production in dry tonnes per day
2. Biosolids production in wet tonnes per day
3. Stabilisation Grade (Restricted, Unrestricted)
4. End use

The information will be aggregated to produce an overview of production on a national/regional level and will not identify individual WWTP's.

Other ANZBP Activities

ANZBP Research Priorities

The survey of ANZBP research priorities, undertaken in May 2010, enabled the ranking of the most significant gaps in Australian Biosolids knowledge. Some excellent new research projects were also submitted by members. These projects have either been integrated with existing projects on the list; or have been noted for future consideration.

The following project topics were selected as being the highest priority for investigation:

- Odour Generation from Biosolids
- Organic Compounds in Biosolids
- Alternative Uses for Biosolids

In order to assist scoping of the “Organic Compounds in Biosolids” project, the project team would appreciate your input, more specifically:

1. Are you aware of any studies in this area (and can they be made available)?
2. Are you aware of any risk assessments in this area (and again their availability)?
3. What specific knowledge gaps in this area exist within the Australian and New Zealand Biosolids Industry?
4. Are you aware of any funding sources for such research?

Please forward any responses or comments to Greg at gpriest@awa.asn.au, by 25 August 2010. ANZBP Advisory Board Member Karen Campisano (Melbourne Water) will also be in touch with select members in the near future to collect further information relating to this project. ANZBP management has been in contact with US researchers working in the same area and we are exploring opportunities for collaboration.

Next Survey – Website use and resources

The ANZBP Project Team is soon to distribute a brief survey to assess website and electronic resource usage.

It is planned to continue to use these surveys to gauge the needs and interests of the ANZBP, and better service your information needs. We recognise these surveys can be tedious so are committed to minimising them keeping these very brief (5 minutes only!). However, if you wish not to receive future surveys please let the Project Team know.

Website Updates

The Website has had a number of new resources uploaded, you are encouraged to visit soon and check these out. Whilst there, please take the time to update your contact details and change your password, if you've not previously done so. New resources on the website include:

1. ANZBP's 2009 [Annual Report](#) (public website)
2. ANZBP's Biosolids Legal Register
3. ANZBP's [Business Plan for 2010-11](#)
4. A Summary of Pathogens in Wastewater or Sludge
5. Water Environment Research Foundation - Land Application and Composting of Biosolids Factsheet

Conferences

[AWA Odours Specialty Conference, Sydney, 24-25 August 2010](#)

This conference will feature a mix of research and project based papers from Australian and international visitors with a focus on wastewater, biosolids and related odours production, regulations, detection and mitigation; an excellent program centred on odour and emission problems from STPs and biosolids related activities. Keynote speaker will be Dr Jenny Barclay, dispersion modelling specialist. Conference details [here](#).

[9th IWA Specialist Conference on Waste Stabilisation Ponds: Call for Papers Now Open](#)

This conference will focus on techniques for the delivery of the maximum volumes of clean, environmentally safe, treated waste water for amenity and agricultural purposes using minimal energy inputs and having low maintenance requirements. The conference will be held in Adelaide, 1-3 August 2011.

Abstracts relevant to Waste Stabilisation Ponds are being sought in the following fields: performance; biology; applications for smaller communities; sustainability issues; public health microbiology; case studies; and integration with other treatment technologies. Submissions close 12 November 2010. For further information visit the [website](#).

[15th European Biosolids & Organic Resources Conference, Seminar & Exhibition](#)

The annual European Biosolids and Organic Resources will once again be held at the Royal Armouries in Leeds, UK. The conference will be held 15th – 17th November 2010, please the [website](#) for further detail. In conjunction with the conference, the [Controlling and Eliminating Odour Emissions from Waste Handling Facilities](#) workshop will be held on 16th November 2010 in Leeds, please the [website](#).

[IWA-WEF Nutrient Recovery and Management 2011](#)

IWA-WEF has announced the IWA-WEF Nutrient Recovery and Management 2011 conference which will be held in Miami, Florida, USA from January 9 - 12, 2011. Topic areas to be discussed at the conference include:

- Research in Nutrient Removal and Recovery
- Operations of Nutrient Removal and Recovery Plant
- Design of Nutrient Removal and Recovery Plants
- Watershed and River Basin Nutrient Management

More information can be found on the [website](#).

From the ANZBP Team

The email has been sent on behalf of:

AUSTRALIAN WATER ASSOCIATION

ABN: 78 096 035 773

Level 6, 655 Pacific Highway, St Leonards, NSW, 2065

+61 2 9436 0055 +61 2 9436 0055 , Fax +61 2 9436 0155

www.awa.asn.au

