



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

Dear ANZBP members and colleagues,

As chair of the Australian New Zealand Biosolids Partnership I would like to personally welcome you to this edition of the ANZBP Newsletter. At a recent planning meeting of the Advisory Board we resolved to provide more focus on communications with our members and the community. You can look forward to hearing and seeing more about the sustainable use of biosolids both in our online communications and other media.

Michael Naughton
Chair ANZBP Advisory Board

Update on ANZBP Activities

ANZBP Biosolids Production & End Use Survey

On behalf of the ANZBP Administrative Team and project contractor PSD Pty Ltd, many thanks to all those who have supported the collection of biosolids statistics for the ANZBP Biosolids Production & End Use Survey. This project updates the 2011 publication of the same name, and will be published in June 2013.

WERF Trace Organic Compounds Research Reports

Now published on the ANZBP website are a number of reports coming from the Water Environment Research Foundation's (WERF) *Evaluation of Fate and Exposure for Trace Organics in Biosolids-Amended Soils* research initiative. The recent research findings provide empirical data to assess environmental and health risks of trace organic compounds in biosolids applied to land. A substantial volume of unpublished (or recently published) experimental data was collected and is reviewed in the report. Available on the ANZBP [members website](#).

Water Corporation/Curtin University Odour Management Project online

Throughout 2011 and 2012 the Water Corporation of Western Australia and Curtin University Water Quality Research Centre undertook detailed research into the sources of, and ability to control, odour generated while treating and storing biosolids. To date the project has focused on identifying and documenting the various chemical causes of odour via small scale lab trials, and exploring the impact of chemical addition at differing steps of the treatment process to mitigate odour production. The next phase, is to expand the lab trials to include sludge and biosolids from other wastewater treatment processes. This project phase will also provide qualitative data on odour reduction resulting from the chemical addition trials. It is anticipated further project phases will result in on site pilot scale trials. Available on the ANZBP [members website](#).

Biosolids Literature Compendium

An updated version of the Biosolids Literature Compendium is now available on the ANZBP [members website](#). The Compendium provides an understanding of the scope of work being undertaken by researchers and the fields in which it is being undertaken. It identifies ground-breaking research that is at the leading-edge of biosolids management, technologies and communications initiatives. A recommended resource that all members should explore if they require specific scientific evidence, or before starting any research of their own.

Welcome new ANZBP members

The ANZBP would like to welcome the following organisations to our membership (mouse-over for links):

- [Plenary Environment](#)
- [Resource Recovery Management Pty Ltd](#)
- [Northern Rivers Water Group](#)

Please feel free to contact the ANZBP [Program Manager](#) should you have any questions regarding the above, or any other queries regarding the ANZBP.

Please visit the [Subscribers section of the ANZBP website](#) for access to the increasing range of ANZBP research reports.

Industry News & Media

New Research Body - Centre for Integrated Biowaste Research

Representatives of the ANZBP were present at the launch of the new Centre for Integrated Biowaste Research (CIBR) at the Joint Australian/New Zealand Biosolids Workshop in Blenheim, New Zealand, in early April. The CIBR is a research body which combines the expertise of ten New Zealand research groups to develop sustainable solutions that maximise the benefits and minimise any risks associated with using biowastes. Around 70 attendees from a variety of backgrounds attended the workshop to hear about biosolids management practices in Australia and New Zealand, explore opportunities for improved biosolids regulations, and learn about innovative research activities from CIBR member researchers and ANZBP representatives.

VicWater Biosolids Article - Biosolids Reuse Methodology

An article entitled "Biosolids reuse reporting methodology – South East Water Predilection" was recently published in the Victorian Water Association's Water Matters newsletter. The article explores the difference between the operational definitions of sludge and biosolids and considers the discrepancies in the reporting protocol of the Victorian Essential Services Commission. Visit the VicWater [website](#).

NZ WWTP Inventory replaces WINFO

The NZ WWTP Inventory replaces the WINFO database, which was established in 2005 as a joint venture between Water New Zealand and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) to record data about New Zealand's publicly owned wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). Data entrance fields will include:

- Sludge treatment including dewatering
- Disposal/usage of sludge, and
- Sludge (quantities produced and % dry solids)

More information on the [Water New Zealand](#) website.

New Association - Australian Organics Recycling Association

As a result of the growth of the organics composting and recycling industry in Australia and the desire of processors to have independence of the waste industry a new association has been formed called the [Australian Organics Recycling Association](#) limited (AORA). AORA will work on behalf of its members to raise awareness of recycling organic resources. AORA also facilitates the [Compost for Soils](#) program, which aims to build and spread knowledge about the production, benefits and use of recycled organics (compost) in a variety of soils and applications. The ANZBP and AORA will maintain links and share information where of value.

Water Corporation Tender Released - Demonstration of Sub-Surface Injection of Wastewater Treatment Sludge

The Water Corporation maintains and operates 104 wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in Western Australia; of these 76 plants are Oxidation pond processes which require de-sludging every 5 -20 years. Typically the unscreened sludge is placed in geo-bags or drying beds to dry and left on-site for several years before being landfilled. However, not all WWTP have drying areas available and this can create a problem for placement of the sludge during de-sludging. To overcome the storage and stockpiling issues, Water Corporation is exploring the option of sub-surface injection of sludge drawn from its regional wastewater oxidation ponds. The Tender Documents may be accessed by companies registered as vendors with the Water Corporation through the "Supplier Portal" on the [Water Corporation's](#) website. Acceptance of bids close 21 May 2013.

Sewage 'smells like money' for UK power firms

United Utilities and Severn Trent, Britain's biggest publicly traded water companies, are increasingly feeding human waste into tanks of bacteria whose methane emissions generate electricity. Read more in the [Sydney Morning Herald](#).

New publication - Study of the Organic Fraction in Biosolids

C. Torrecillas , E. Martínez-Sabater , L. Gálvez-Sola , E. Agulló , A. Pérez-Espinosa , J. Morales , A. M. Mayoral & R. Moral (2013): Study of the Organic Fraction in Biosolids, Communications in Soil Science and Plant Analysis, 44:1-4, 492-501. Available to purchase [here](#).

Website Updates

The below resources and more can be found on the public website or by [logging onto the subscribers section of the website](#) and navigating to the relevant area.

Biosolids Community Information Videos

The ANZBP has collated a number of films explaining the biosolids management process, and various methods of use, from the US and Canada. These films are suitable for school groups or community information exercises and have been published on the [public website](#).

Communications and Cultural Needs - New Page

Community consultation is an essential part of biosolids management practices. New Zealand has much experience in working with its indigenous cultures to seek effective outcomes, therefore the ANZBP's NZ members have kindly contributed to the development of this page. You will need to log-in to the [members website](#) to access this page. If you would like to contribute papers or information to this page please contact the ANZBP [Project Manager](#).

Facultative Lagoon Profiling Method published online

In order for water businesses to account for future expenses and to ensure efficient operation of facultative lagoons it is important to know the quantity of sludge in a lagoon. It is also valuable to know how quickly sludge accumulates to ensure the lagoon is maintained and is performing correctly. Vicwater Biosolids Task Group has released a document to provide a guide to determining the quantity of sludge in lagoons, the sludge accumulation rate, and how often it is necessary to measure the quantity of sludge in a lagoon. The Guide for Facultative Lagoon Profiling can be downloaded from the ANZBP [members website](#) on the "General Biosolids Resources" page.

Responding to media/community inquiries

This page has been developed in response to requests for assistance in managing media issues and inquiries, particularly in the face of negative media coverage or community concern. Please consider the information on this page to assist you in the development of your media package or develop a strategy to address community concern. Whilst this page is the central resource for media matters, please review the range of other useful information and communications tools on the website. You will need to log-in to the [members website](#) to access this page.

Ian Tanner "Fronting the Media" advice online

Ian Tanner, Group General Manager Assets & Major Projects at the Sydney Catchment Authority spoke late last year at the AWA NSW Legends of Water event about his experiences in the water industry, including his formative years at the Sydney Water Board and his current role as a General Manager (and frequent media spokesperson) with the Sydney Catchment Authority. Ian has kindly provided his notes on his lessons in handling the media to AWA and ANZBP members which are available to members. These notes accompany the "Responding to Media Enquiries Advice" piece on the Media Tools webpage on the [members website](#).

Please remember that while member resources require you to log-in to the members area of the website, the public area of the website also contains valuable information.

If you are an ANZBP member and require a website password please contact the [Project Manager](#).

Events

18th European Biosolids & Organic Resource - Call for Papers

Conference & Exhibition 19 - 20th November 2013, Manchester Town Hall, UK

Now in its 18th year this event continues to attract Europe's most authoritative experts in the area of biosolids and organic resource handling, treatment and recycling. The conference provides a legislative update which not only outlines how existing regulations are being interpreted and applied, but also provides an early warning of potential future legislation which may impact on our existing recycling opportunities. The Call for Papers has now been released [here](#).

Please share this email with your colleagues, or encourage your colleagues to place their name on this email list by contacting the Program Manager. Many reports are accessible only by ANZBP members and will require a password to enter the members portion of the website. If you and your colleagues are employees of an ANZBP member organisation and require access to the members website, please contact the [Project Manager](#).

From the ANZBP Team

The email has been sent on behalf of the Australian and New Zealand Biosolids Partnership by:

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