



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,

Welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter of the Australian and New Zealand Biosolids Partnership. Whilst this is another lengthy update, the ANZBP Administrative Team recently agreed to deliver these emails on a more regular basis, enabling the provision of more timely and succinct news.

Please note registration for the **AWA Biosolids and Source Management National Conference**, to be held in June 2012 on the Gold Coast, is now open. Additional details are included under *Events* below.

Update on ANZBP Activities

ANZBP Roadshows

The most recent roadshow in Geelong in February was a great success, with around 35 people in attendance. A stand-out of the event was hearing from Mike McCosker from Australian Bio Life, who spoke about the benefits of blending biosolids pellets with fertilisers for use in the agricultural industry. Mike outlined the product's properties and how it is used in agriculture and also discussed the regulatory issues the group addressed in obtaining approval for the biosolids product, which was a great example of regulators, utilities and contractors working together to achieve a beneficial outcome. Thank you to Mike for coming down to the event, and also to ANZBP members Michael Naughton, Aravind Surapaneni and Bill Barber for their presentations.

The presentations from the event are available on the [ANZBP Website](#). Finally a big thanks to all the attendees for making it to Geelong, we are aware many of you traveled some distance and we are grateful for your contribution.

Roadshows planned for 2012 are now being finalised and dates and locations will be advertised in coming newsletters and on the [ANZBP Website](#). If you would like to hold an event in your region please contact the [Project Manager](#).

New ANZBP Public webpage - Benefits of Land Application

This page is a general research targeted at those unfamiliar with biosolids management, who wish to know more about the benefits of land application and the risks surrounding various practices. Information on this page may also be of interest to members seeking to develop information for stakeholders including the public and media. One interesting link is to an educational YouTube video that has come from the Central Valley Clean Water Association in California. The ANZBP page can be found [here](#).

ANZBP collaboration with WERF - Gathering Unpublished Trace Organics data in Land Applied Biosolids

The Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) awarded Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA) a contract to identify, assemble, and summarize all available unpublished data on a list of about 60 pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCP). This research is a part of an overall effort to assess the environmental and human health risks of chemicals that could find their way into soils following land application of biosolids. The ANZBP has committed to contribute to the long term activities of this project and the ANZBP Administration Team may be in touch with members to seek input.

A reminder that the following resources or resources are available online or from the Project Manager:

- **Community Attitudinal Survey:** The Community Attitudinal Survey Report has been published and is currently being sent out to subscribers in hard copy. This report analyses the outcomes of a community survey process, which identified general community attitudes towards biosolids/ biosolids use.
- **Biosolids Production and End Use Statistics:** This project was undertaken to develop an accurate and comprehensive data-set of Biosolids Production and End Use for Australia and New Zealand. The data provided by WWTPs has been summarised in a report which is now available on the ANZBP Subscribers website. This information will be updated annually.
- **Biosolids Literature Compendium:** The Literature Compendium documents progress in biosolids management practices and research developments in Australia and New Zealand from the past five years, as well as planned research. The Compendium has proved to be a valuable asset for researchers with technical matters to address, as well as a tool for policy and communications officers. An up-to-date compendium will be published online in mid-2012.

Please feel free to contact [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

Australian Standard AS4454: Composts, soil conditioners and mulches

The new Standard AS4454 for Composts was recently released online and contains information relevant to use of biosolids in composting techniques. The Standard is available for purchase on this [website](#).

Detection and Transmission of *Dientamoeba fragilis* from Environmental and Household Samples

A research paper examining *D. fragilis*, a parasite which sparked media interest in Sydney Water's biosolids management program in 2011, has now been published online (by Stark et al). The paper found that *D. fragilis* is readily transmitted between people who are in close contact. Further, *D. fragilis* was detected in only 1 of 100 environmental samples, an untreated sewage sample, and that they would not survive the sewage treatment processes which is highlighted by the fact that no *D. fragilis* was detected in treated sewage samples. The paper can be viewed and purchased [here](#).

DSEWPaC Markets Research and Opportunities

The *National Waste Policy: Less waste, more resources* endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments, sets Australia's waste management and resource recovery direction to 2020. The policy aims to reduce the amount of waste for disposal and improve the use of waste as a resource to achieve broader environmental, social and economic benefits. Biosolids have been identified as a resource of interest under the National Waste Policy. The *Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities*, an ANZBP member, recently completed a project to develop a snapshot of biosolids management activities, collate a common data set and provide an evidence base for future decision making. This report will assist with several National Waste Policy strategies, including establishing markets and standards, greenhouse gas avoidance and improved management of waste and recycling streams.

NBP Webcast: Renewable Green Energy from Biosolids: Case Studies to Achieve Net Energy Production

Renewable green energy potential from wastewater treatment facilities has spurred a tremendous amount of interest in an economy that faces ever increasing costs for energy. This webinar will present case studies from wastewater facilities to achieve zero net energy utilization to becoming a net energy producer and learn about biosolids energy recovery methods that are proven, available and emerging. NBP webinars are approximately midnight Australian time, however Power Point PDF files for the webcasts are available for downloading from their [website](#).

Use of Nanoparticles for Reduction of Odorant Production and Improvements in Dewaterability of Biosolids

Odor production and dewaterability are two issues of concern for utilities during conditioning and beneficial reuse of biosolids. The objective of this study was to obtain preliminary information on the potential role of novel nanoparticles in enhancing sludge dewatering and control of biosolids odor. The study explored the possible mechanisms of nanoparticles interactions with sludge constituents and control of odorant release in the presence of high surface area nanoparticles. Purchase online [here](#).

Website Updates - Subscribers pages

These resources can be found by [logging onto the subscribers section of the website](#) and navigating to the relevant area.

New Case Study - Research

A new case study has been developed to provide information on the Barwon Water Short Term Biosolids Management Project at Connewarre in Victoria. Providing a brief rundown of the biosolids management practices of that organisation, this case study is likely to be of interest to those undertaking planning now or in the near future.

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.

Biosolids Experts & Spokespersons Directory

The ANZBP maintains an up-to-date list of independent biosolids spokespersons, technical experts and biosolids contacts. Much of this information can be found on the members website and further details can be sought from the Project Manager. The objective is to expand this list with both member and non-members details in order to assist in identifying and contacting professionals for advice. If you would like to place your contact details on this page please contact the Project Manager.

Case Studies - Technologies

A number of Technology providers have contributed brochures and technical information for publication on the ANZBP. These are available on the members website. The ANZBP is also seeking Case Studies from members. Case Studies are an ideal way to raise the profile of a business's activities, with the objective to publish completed case studies on the ANZBP website. If your organisation is planning, or implementing strategies or activities to manage biosolids issues and you would like to contribute a case study, please email your interest to the Project Manager. A Case Study template has been developed and is available upon request.

Biosolids and Microbial Safety

The ANZBP believes it is important to demonstrate that the water industry takes microbial safety of biosolids seriously. A new page has therefore been developed (on the members website) which provides a number of resources that have kindly been provided by members. Current resources on the page include:

- Summary of Potential Pathogens in Wastewater or Sludge (June 2011)
- Pathogen risk and nutrient status of air-dried and stored biosolids + Appendices
- Numerous conference papers and presentation

If you are an ANZBP member and require a website password please contact the Project Manager.

Events

Hold the date: Enviro 12 Conference & Exhibition - 24-26 July 2012, Adelaide

AWA Biosolids and Source Management National Conference "Source to Resource: The Input Influences The End Use" 18-20 June 2012, Gold Coast

The AWA combined Biosolids and Source Management Conference allows for knowledge of the treatment process as a whole and influent contaminants that may reduce the outlets for this reuse. This is essential in understanding the whole life cycle of the system and the potential issues that can arise, not only in treatment but disposal. Source management and biosolids go hand in hand to achieve an integrated solution and this conference will explore both areas and link them together. Registration is available [here](#).

The ANZBP will be holding a workshop at the event, considering current Biosolids Regulation in Australia and exploring the future of management systems. It is hoped the event can produce an agreed method and direction to encourage change in national biosolids regulation, and scope some of the core issues that should be addressed.

17th European Biosolids & Organic Resources Conference & Exhibition

This event continues to attract the most authoritative experts in the area of biosolids and organic resource handling, treatment and recycling. With the recovery of energy and resources from organic wastes rising on the waste agenda, the programme will include discussion on issues in handling, treatment and reuse of wastewater derived from biosolids. Co-digestion, enhancing gas production and assessing carbon footprints are also included on the agenda. Further details and registration [here](#).

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

From the ANZBP Team

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