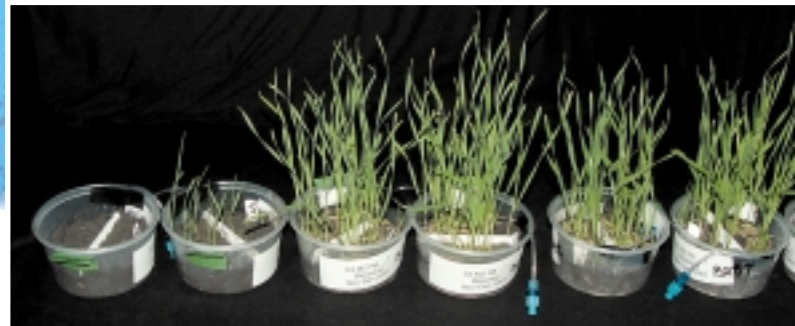
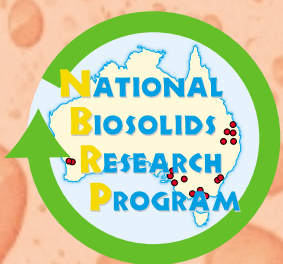


NATIONAL BIOSOLIDS RESEARCH PROGRAM



Five major research projects in Qld, NSW, Vic, SA and WA have combined to take the first step in a national approach to research into the benefits and risks regarding application of biosolids and other urban wastes on agricultural land.



PROJECT AIMS

At a national scale, the aims of the coordinated approach are to:

- a) determine the benefits of biosolids use in a range of diverse soil and crop environments around Australia
- b) assess the detrimental/beneficial effects of metal contaminants in the biosolids using a range of chemical and biological endpoints, incorporating bioavailability considerations
- c) develop a sound scientific approach to assessing and implementing realistic guidelines for biosolids use in agriculture, suitable for a wide range of Australian soils and environmental conditions.

A total of 17 field sites around Australia have been established.

The data gathered will augment the information already available from biosolids research programs in various agencies. Laboratory and field experimentation has a common experimental design, allowing integration of the data and extrapolation to a wide range of soil and crop environments.



Queensland

The Queensland component is funded by Brisbane Water/Brisbane City Council (BW/BCC), South East Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (SEQROC) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The research is undertaken jointly by the Queensland Departments Natural Resources and Mining (NRM), and Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F), together with CSIRO Land and Water. Five sites have been established growing a range of crops in environments likely to benefit from biosolids applications both in coastal and inland areas.

Contact:

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Glenn Barry, NR&M, (07) 3896 9306, Glenn.Barry@nrm.qld.gov.au

New South Wales

The NSW component is funded by the NSW Environmental Trust and the research undertaken by NSW Department of Primary Industry (DPI), NSW EPA and CSIRO Land and Water. The two sites are located at the Centre for Recycled Organics in Agriculture (CROA) located west of Sydney.

Contact:

Mark Whatmuff, NSW DPI, (08) 8303 7284, mark.whatmuff@csiro.au

Victoria

The Victoria component is being undertaken by the Victorian Department of Primary Industries and has been funded by a consortium of 16 water authorities representing the metropolitan and regional urban water authorities (via VicWater), Department of Sustainability & Environment and Victorian EPA. Five sites have been established.

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South Australia

The South Australian component is being undertaken by CSIRO Land and Water and funded principally by SA Water, United Water, and ACIAR. Three sites have been established on contrasting soil types used for dryland cereal, oilseed and grain legume production.

Contact:

Michael Warne, CSIRO Land and Water, (08) 8303 8533, michael.warne@csiro.au

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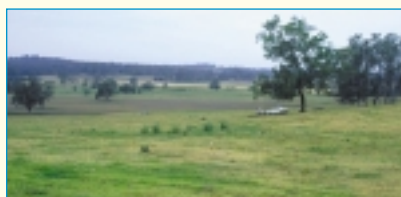
Western Australia

In Western Australia, the experimental program is supported by WA Water Corporation and is being coordinated by Curtin University of Technology (Muresk). Two sites have been established in the north-eastern wheatbelt on soils typical of where dryland cereals, grain legumes and oilseeds are grown.

Contact:

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SCIENTIFIC FOCUS

The project team coordinates a series of field and laboratory measurements relating to nutrient release from biosolids, plant nutrient uptake, plant metal uptake, soil nutrient status and effects of metals on soil microbial health.

The issue of bioavailability of nutrients and metals in the materials, and in soils receiving these materials, is also being assessed.



OUTCOMES

The project will provide the necessary data to underpin the production of scientifically defensible guidelines for biosolids and other waste materials reuse at State and National levels.

UPDATE MEETINGS

Each year the project team has a coordination meeting bringing together researchers, industry and regulators, and at which results are presented and experimental plans discussed.

INTERNATIONAL LINKS

The National Biosolids Research Program is coordinated by CSIRO Land and Water and there is an international component in south-east Asia funded by ACIAR, also involving DPI&F and NR&M. Sites with similar experimental designs have been established in Vietnam and Thailand by the project team.

FURTHER PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

In each of the participating States, the experimental sites also provide a resource for other industries to benchmark the agronomic and environmental performance of their recycled or waste materials destined for land application.

CONTACT FOR INFORMATION

If you would like more information on the program, please contact the State coordinators outlined above, or contact:

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Australian Government
Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research



Department of
Primary Industries



Department of
Sustainability
and Environment



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



VICTORIAN WATER
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION INC.
"Innovation, Co-operation & Sustainability"



United Water



SA WATER



Queensland Government
Natural Resources and Mines



Queensland Government
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

