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Recycled Organics Overview

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Technologies for a Better Environment
AORA Background

• AORA was established in May 2012 to provide an industry based association to represent the interests of the organics processors nationally
• A primary driver was to move away from the “waste tag”
• We have active branches in NSW, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia as well as a new branch in WA this year.

AORA Background

• The association was established with the intent of allowing state branches to be autonomous
• The chair from each state division will be invited onto the AORA board
• AORA is an Australian company limited by guarantee and regulated by ASIC
• The company web site [www.aora.org.au](http://www.aora.org.au) and the associated Compost for soils site which is also owned and managed by AORA [www.compostforsol.com.au](http://www.compostforsol.com.au)
What AORA represents?
- over 150 businesses involved in organics recycling and composting
- estimated industry turnover of $1 billion
- capital investment in excess of $2 billion
- directly employ over 3,500 people (FTE)
- recycling more than 6.3 million tonnes of organic material each year
- products including composted soil conditioners and mulches, agricultural soil amendments, potting mixes, playground surfacing and manufactured soils.
- comports recover nutrients equivalent to more than 30,000 tonnes of urea, 3,000 tonnes of super phosphate and 15,300 tonnes of potassium sulphate; that would otherwise be lost to landfill each year
- comports sequester and abate more than 7.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide
- compost application suppresses weed growth and can save more than 30% of irrigation water
- the composting process destroys weed seeds and pathogens.

What can we represent?
An additional 13 million tonnes/year of organic material is still available to be diverted from landfill. Diverting just an additional 2 million tonnes would:
- create more than 650 new jobs
- increase turnover by up to $400 million and an expected capital investment in excess of $1 billion
- avoid approximately 2 million tonnes of CO2e emissions and sequester approximately 1 million tonnes of CO2e in soils when the compost is applied to land
- save a further 100GL of irrigation water
- replace 10,000 tonnes of urea, 1,000 tonnes of super phosphate and 5,000 tonnes of potassium sulphate
- deliver an additional $30 million in farm revenue due to yield improvement in intensive agriculture.
Australian Standards

- **AS4454**
  - Composts, soil conditioners and mulches
  - Established in 2003, revised in 2012
- **AS4419**
  - Soils for landscaping and garden use, est 2003
  - Currently under review by AORA in partnership with AORA, and NSW, SA and Vic Governments
  - Draft due in early 2017

Promotion

- Fact Sheets / Case Studies / Newsletters
Benefits of Recycled Organics

• Compost has a number of well established carbon abatement benefits:
  – Diversion of organic materials from landfill and avoided methane generation
  – Increased soil carbon from compost application and increases in long term carbon content of soils
• Water efficiency saving through both composites and mulches
  – 30% increased water efficiency isn’t uncommon through better absorption and retention
• Increases Organic Matter
  – To retain nutrients
  – Increase soil microbial populations and diversity which increases nutrient availability
  – Increases air penetration
  – Improves overall soil structure including reduced erosion
• Pathogen destruction and remediation
  – Kills weed and biosecurity threats when treated properly under AS4454
  – Kills harmful bacteria while nurturing beneficial bacteria
  – Breaks down and can eliminate soil contaminants
Industry issues and focuses!

Key regulatory focus areas of AORA include:

• Regulations and definitions of waste
• Working with the governments to increase state collaborations and consistencies
• Research and industry data
• National Road mapping

Opportunities

• General Blending
• Tailored high spec products
• Mulch and low grade blending
• Emerging markets
Questions

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Compost for Soils