



A Division of the WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

AMM Minutes for Monday 17 November 2008		
5:30pm	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>How the meeting will work Chairperson's welcome Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pam Pittaway</li> <li>• Miles Lochhead</li> <li>• Johannes Biala</li> </ul> <p>Confirmation of 2007 minutes and business arising: Business membership categories have been introduced as instructed at last year's AMM.</p>	<p><i>Angus Johnston</i> <i>Peter Wadewitz</i></p>
5:35pm	<p><b>Reports</b></p> <p>Compost Australia Chairman's Report Project Manager and Finance Report State Working Group Reports</p>	<p><i>State reports below</i></p>
6:05pm	<p><b>How can we work better together?</b></p> <p>What additional roles should be created? Are there any additions or changes to operational procedures? How can we best communicate and make decisions? How can MIDOs best contribute maximum value to members?</p>	<p>Workshop outcomes below</p>
6:50pm	<p><b>Elections</b></p> <p>Committee members announced (roles not contested) CA Executive announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Wadewitz (Chair)</li> <li>• Tony Emery (Deputy Chair)</li> <li>• Simon Gardener Lee (Finance Officer)</li> </ul>	<p>Committee List below</p>
7:00pm	<p><b>Check-out and close</b></p>	

## National Project Manager Report

- 1) The focus of this year's efforts has been to build business membership of Compost Australia by offering expanded membership services and publishing clear Action Plans for the organisation.
- 2) Due to a reduction in state government funding, the National Project Manager has worked 3-4 days/week on Compost Australia activities throughout 2008.
- 3) WMAA has subsidized the position by providing a travel budget and covering all office expenses, while the additional employment costs have been covered by project managing other WMAA activities.
- 4) Major projects implemented in the period July 2007 to November 2008 were:
  - a) The National Processors Survey (contracted to ROU)
  - b) International Compost Awareness Week 2008 (cooperative project with CORE)
  - c) Product Certification and Marketing (Joint Marking Agreement with SAI Global)
  - d) Compost Australia Action Plan development (in-house and multiple contactors)
  - e) International Speaker Tour – 4 states (Ron Alexander)
  - f) Compost Australia business membership drive (in-house)
- 5) Other significant activities included:
  - a) Development of a Compost Australia Response to Climate Change Policy
  - b) Presentation (invited speaker) at ISWA Biological Waste Management Conference and international networking in Italy and UK.
  - c) Presentation (invited speaker) at Waste MINZ workshops and engagement with the Compost NZ committee.
  - d) Development of networks with industry and government in Australia through meetings and seminars involving numerous interstate meetings.
- 6) The WMAA Board has agreed to fund the position 3 days a week during 2009 meaning that some fee-for-service jobs will need to be taken on to support the position full-time.
- 7) During 2009 the NPM will be managing two MIDO positions and will be supported by the seven office staff located in WMAA National Office for events, publications and administration activities.
- 8) During 2009 the NPM will continue to seek business members in all states so as to expand the *Advancing the Recycled Organics Industry Program* and its benefits to members.

## Compost Australia Financial Report

As a division of the Waste Management Association of Australia, Compost Australia operates on a January to December financial year. The last AMM was held in June 2007. This report highlights results from the 2007 calendar year summary and the 2008 year to date.

For the calendar year 2007:

- Income from membership fees totaled \$9,718;
- State government support for the NPM was \$58,000;
- All other income (mainly through CA events) was \$93,364;
- The Compost Division and Working Groups budgeted for a loss of \$83,544 and actually lost \$81,824 (including project expenditure);
- The majority of the budgeted loss (\$71,000 was for budgeted projects).

For the 10 months to October 2008:

- Income from membership fees totaled \$29,813;
- State government support for the NPM was \$24,000;
- All other income (mainly through CA events) was \$140,251;
- The Compost Division and Working Groups budgeted for a loss of \$42,798 (YTD) and actually lost \$62,467 (YTD);
- There was no new WMAA project money for Compost Australia in 2008;
- Some of the business membership fees collected this year will need to be carried forward to the *Advancing the RO Industry* commencement date (5 January 2009);
- The current loss appears to be largely a shortfall in income from state funding of the NPM – this being investigated;
- There is unbudgeted expenditure of \$2000 by CNSW to pay for consulting advice provided by Angus Campbell;
- Compost SA has made a significant unbudgeted loss (~\$3,000) caused largely by the recent Christine Jones Breakfast Seminar.

Concluding notes:

- WMAA has made a significant contribution to the NPM position over the 2 years both financially (~\$135,000) and in-kind through office support, office space, and Val Southam's management support.
- The division and working groups need to more actively seek and justify project funding through the WMAA application process;
- Our small/breakfast seminars are generally making small but significant losses.

## International Compost Awareness Week AMM Report 2009

Prepared by Glen Ellery

We were asked to look at three main points:

- Objectives – The main objective is for ICAW to generate greater sales, and therefore profits, to the majority of members and stakeholders of CA. We need to create demand into new markets as well as maintain/grow our existing markets. ICAW is to be developed further and used as a marketing and promotional tool to benefit our members.
- Messages – ICAW is an education / promotional campaign that must be designed to increase the sales of recycled organics and also increase the awareness of the professionalism that exists in our industry to our target audiences, both new and existing. The messages can be altered slightly from state to state depending on their agreed target audiences but the ideology must stay the same: INCREASE SALES AND AWARENESS OF QUALITY COMPOSTED PRODUCTS FROM CA MEMBERS. The Compost Ball is required as this provides excellent corporate opportunities for our members to exploit.
- Target Audiences: An overwhelming response to this questions was ICAW needs to have a greater % of available resources to the “professional market”. The professional market is roughly grouped to include Horticulture, Agriculture and Rehabilitation. It covers all areas that are “business to business” selling. These areas have been identified as the largest volume sales for new clients. It is clear we need to spend more time and marketing (\$) through the ICAW concept to gain greater acceptance into these markets.

### CONCLUSION

- If we can create greater volumes into ongoing and sustainable large scale markets we will have achieved our objective.
- If we can increase volume sales we will find it easier to seek sponsorship from profit driven members and government organizations.
- We will achieve objectives required by Government, Councils and other relevant industry stake holders by diverting a greater amount of organics to new and sustainable markets. This will give us a greater voice and “story to tell” to key decision makers in the future.

## **Compost South Australia AMM Report 2008**

Prepared by Paul Bowden

*Contamination Taskforce* - This group is lead by ZWSA and involves Compost SA members and captures LGA, Processors and Transporters. The group successfully implemented a Sticker trial involving over 5000 households to assess the best way of mitigating contamination. Successfully raised awareness and captured the issue in mainstream media included radio and newspapers. Results and extension information will be ongoing, an article was published in WME and presented at the ZWSA/WMAA Conference in 2008.

*Carbon Sequestration* - Dr Tim Moore and Dr Jeff Baldock presented at a Compost SA Breakfast late 2007 on the status of carbon trading, where the market may be going in the future, referencing trend interstate and overseas. Since this CompostSA has also held another breakfast with Dr Christine Jones presenting on Soil Carbon Farming.

*ICAW* - May 2008 Compost SA made and distributed promotional bags of compost educating people on the positive link between recycled organics and climate change. These were distributed at Compost for Soils seminar which was attended by over 100 end users and a lunch hosted by the Minister for Agriculture.

*Food Organics* – Compost SA has been successful in lobbying state and local government an has jointly achieved the implementation of food organic pilot trial across eight Adelaide councils involving over 10,000 households.

*EPA Regulations* - We have had a breakfast this year with Dr Michael Warne from CSIRO to brief us on the background behind the soon to be released EPA Guidelines on applying organic fertilisers to land. The group will formulate a response to this EPA guideline when released late in 2008.

*Future Initiatives* - We are looking at having two more breakfasts, one Jan-Feb 2009 and one May-June 2009. The themes at this stage are to be

1. A parks and gardens expert to speak and focus on getting our local government members to come along and connect the Waste and Parks departments together by compost and mulch, closing the organics loop in local government.
2. Speaker from the Federal Department of Climate Change potentially Ian Carruthers to talk about their position on including waste and soil carbon.

Compost SA would like to thank the work of Rob Rodenburg in helping organise the breakfasts, ZWSA for their continued support and sponsorship of initiatives, Philip Matthews for management of the Contamination Taskforce and Van Shaiks for putting together the promotional compost bags for ICAW.

## COMPOST VICTORIA REPORT 2008

2008 has been a year of change and one that has seen Compost Victoria emerge as a stronger and relevant industry group.

There have been many highlights;

- The appointment of Australia's first Compost Industry Marketing & Industry Development Officer.(MIDO)
- Four major processors achieving AS4454 with one of them becoming the first to acquire the new Compost Certification.
- Record involvement in seminars, workshops and industry promotional activities including;
  - Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show
  - Healthy & Sustainable Gardens program
  - Biological Farmers Association Road Show seminar
  - Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Forum
  - International Compost Awareness Week
  - Assisting Metropolitan Waste Management Group with production of the Vasili Compost Industry educational DVD
  - Presentation of the MIDO program at Enviro 2008
  - Presentation at DPI Geelong Winegrowers Seminar
  - RACV Home & Garden Show
  - Soil Health, Humus & Water Seminar
  - Landscape Industry Information session
- Development of relationships with;
  - VicRoads
  - Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
  - Eco-Buy
  - Biological Farmers Association
  - Department of Primary Industries
- The formation of a strategic sub committee (Compost Manufacturers' Action Group [CMAG]) for long term planning, and to ensure Compost Victoria have a strong voice in decision-making forums, by Government agencies and others, particularly where it affects processors.

This group had immediate involvement with;

- EPA (new licence issues)
- Sustainability Victoria ( *Smart Organics Recovery Guide* Document review) and;
- The Metropolitan Waste Management Group (*Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Strategic Plan*) and included an invitation to attend a round table discussion on *Melbourne's Future Waste Challenges* with the Minister for Environment & Climate Change, Mr Gavin Jennings.

The support of Sustainability Victoria, particularly through the efforts of Bill Grant and now Jamie Wallis, has been exceptional.

The Victorian Compost Industry cannot expect this support to last forever and must now begin to take a greater responsibility and commitment to strengthen and ensure the future of the industry.

Although much has been achieved throughout 2008, there is more work to be done. Some major issues that require industry involvement are;

- A fair and reasonable gate fee that allows the industry to invest in new technology that meets the demands of Government waste strategies.
- That all Council tender processes include:-
  - Council responsibility and action plans to control contamination levels
  - "Green" buy-back programs
  - Suitability and ability of contractors
  - Cessation of give-away mulch to the public
- EPA Guidelines form part of the new *Smart Organics Recovery Guide* and that this document serves as the reference point for all EPA officers and other Government agencies and industry representatives.
- Ensure that industry needs are met when involved with the Victorian Advanced Resource Recovery Initiative (VARRI) group.
- Work with MIDO and others to develop quality products and help stimulate market demand.

Compost Victorian also has a role to play in lobbying governments for inclusion in carbon trading via Compost Australia representation.

The new committee has a good blend of experience and enthusiasm and I am looking forward to seeing a stronger Compost Victoria developing in 2009.

Thank you to the many people who have helped me during 2008. Your support has been greatly appreciated.

Ken Hirst  
November 2008

## **Compost Western Australia AMM Report 2008**

Prepared by Andy Gulliver

### Policy Framework

- New government
- Last govt. had 4 Ministers in short period ("Minister for the Moment")
- Unclear whether new govt. values environment, low key portfolio (but nearly always is)
- WARR Bill passed through parliament
- Waste Management Board disbanded
- Waste Management Authority formed
- Has not made slightest bit of difference - still in a policy vacuum

### Regulatory Authorities

- Under resourced, small team trying hard
- Great support for Compost WA initiatives
- Good working relationship between officers and industry
- Need to formalise partnership between WMA and/or Minister and industry

### Industry and Market development

- Strategic plan has served well - relentless progress, even if slow
- CWA working on Market Development plan
- New IDO should be advertised November 2008
- Real action stalled until IDO appointed, volunteers unable to deliver more results without help
- Future is promising
- Two companies are being audited for CA 'Leaf Mark'
- Still some confusion about how CA 'Leaf Mark' fits in the marketing mix.

Compost NSW Report  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Compost NSW has been involved in a number of projects of importance to the composting industry in NSW.

1. Assistance from NSW Department of Conservation and Climate Change (DECC), Sustainability Programs for the appointment of an industry Market and Industry Development Officer (MIDO). The position will be jointly funded by DECC and Compost Australia.
2. Successful negotiation with DECC, Environmental Protection and Regulation Division (EP&R) for the granting of exemption to Raw Mulch and Food Waste Compost for land application under the 3F (fertilizer, fuel & fill) regulations of the Protection of the Environment Operations (POEO) Act. These exemptions effectively allow compost made from source separated green organics (including food waste) access to land application without a waste facility licence (business as usual).
3. Compost Australia restructuring and new membership program. Compost NSW has supported this project and ensured that the most influential figures in the industry will participate in the program.
4. The Compost Ball and other promotional activities were held during Compost Week (May 2008). Six Compost Leadership Awards were presented at the Compost Ball (see page 4 of Inside WMAA MAY/JUNE 2008 [http://www.wme.com.au/insidewaste/downloads/Issue24\\_MAY.JUNE2008\\_InsideWaste.pdf](http://www.wme.com.au/insidewaste/downloads/Issue24_MAY.JUNE2008_InsideWaste.pdf) )
5. Compost NSW has maintained contact with the AWT-DORF Working group on its projects to identify Chemicals of Concern (COC's) and physical contamination levels in AWT produced composts.
6. Support has been provided for recommendation to the Biosolids Task Force for increases in the allowable levels of Copper (Cu) and Zinc (Zn) in Biosolids for unrestricted application.
7. Members of Compost NSW participated in seminars presented to grape growers by NSW Department of Primary Industry (DPI) on the outcomes of the three-year research project on the costs/benefits of using composts in vineyards.

**Compost NSW would like to record its appreciation for the generous support it and the industry continues to receive from DECC, Sustainability Programs. Compost NSW also appreciates and acknowledges the support from WMAA (through Angus Johnston), the work put in by the Compost NSW Committee and in particular the contribution of the Chair (Tony Emery) and the Secretary (Garry Kimble)**

Tony Emery  
Chair, Compost NSW

## **Compost Queensland AMM Report 2008**

Prepared by Dennis Baker

### CQ last 12 months:

- 8 ordinary meetings held now bimonthly;
- WMAA branch meetings 4 attended by D Baker 1 by P Pittaway to present CQ business;
- At CQ meetings guest speakers from MRD & EPA this year;
- Membership increasing includes producers, researchers, consultants & clients;
- CQ met with EPA, MRD, and CEO WMAA;
- No MIDO appointed but gravely needed in QLD;
- ICAW events Breakfast Seminar with R Alexander & City Square promotions;
- Problem with Publicity & events help within CQ;
- Significant Technical contribution to AS4454 rewrite by CQ.

### 2009 plans for CQ:

- Hoping Caring for country grant for compost project succeeds (otherwise need alternative) - big need for SEQ projects;
- SE Queensland Councils strategy promising;
- AS 4454 update needs to be completed and published;
- ICAW needs to be coordinated & promoted early.

## What additional roles should be created?

1. Revision of AS4454 and other relevant product standards
2. Professional development and industry training
3. More strategic management of limited resources: Make better proactive use of existing resources - trg package, rolibrary and other resources, access to agricultural science /key stakeholder groups
4. Plant disease control linkages

National MIDO co-ordination

Federal Grant Officer

ICAW Committee Chair Glen E, plus ??reps Control and recommendations on funding and coordination

Research Officer

EPA guidelines for organic fertiliser national input and committee

Technical committee to be facilitated and new standards introduced

Australian Standards Committee

Chair, Tony E, Project manager Garry K, plus state rep

## How can MIDOs best contribute maximum value to members?

Discussion comment: Make sure we do what needs to be done to ensure that the MIDOs hit the ground running, are bedded down and prepared

The absence of MIDO's has lead to inevitable duplication of efforts. we need to rein this in and use our human resources efficiently

Who governs MIDO direction & does the direction reflect the needs & objectives of funding partners?

Learn from experience with Katie Webster in SA - what worked, what was less productive in relation to the role. This was documented at previous R&D forum.

Are MIDO roles state driven & not duplicated?

CA coordination of IDO roles to avoid unnecessary duplication.

We need ACTION MEN not report writers.

Templates so IDO reports are similar structure (research reporting framework).

We've received some great info today about what is going on in other states - MIDO's can turn these ideas into action

MIDOs to ensure as much of the successful project results are communcated and centrally available to all

Clearly defined roles and priorities for MIDOs

First job - deliver what Rob N was asking for - focus on market development activities.

Peter's comment: We need to get monthly reports on MIDO activities

Have clear reporting and decision making processes so they can use their time effectively

As much face to face contact with state govt & councils as possible

At the Canberra forum last year the programs most supported by industry operators were:

- Facilitate comment on policy and participation in consultation processes
- Deliver R&D Forum, coordinating and sharing research outcomes
- Develop and publish market education resources in target markets
- Facilitate the review, update and coordination of product standards

Maybe these items should be re-visited to ensure they are what the members still see as important.

The members should drive the MIDOs

## **Additional comments recorded during the meeting**

Tony: Need for States to manage process of controlling funds (as we're now managing significant amounts from members fees and govt contributions), have proper AGM structure etc

This articulates exactly the problems in qld - what do the members get out of this organisation the most important thing we believe in qld is a better as4454 spec published ASAP

Discussion on whether new roles for volunteers just add work to people who are not able to fulfill

Rob: you have to understand that it is all volunteers, someone is paying people wages to go to these things. Therefore there has to be a payback to these businesses. You have to make sure that the basic business needs are assisted as the absolute primary objective, before you have development and education projects.

Ken: I don't think I've been successful enough in promoting what the group does, at a national level. If we did promote better at State level, we might get people more excited.

Angus comment: email is not being an effective communication tool with members.

## **Are there any additions or changes to operational procedures?**

State based executives of state working group also takes on role for CA to increase national contribution

Events in conjunction with key allied groups - as with soil carbon forum

Clarification of control and allocation of CA funds within WMAA including industry accreditation funding

Use this type of media tool to bring state MIDO's together.

There seem to be too many national issues which are not being addressed nationally. ie only one state is addressing

State groups responsible for own budget for small events

State groups must have an election process

More frequent phone hook ups on single issue problems such as bio-solids guidelines etc

Management of small events (ie breakfasts) needs to be clearer in respect to budget and cost control.

## **How can we best communicate and make decisions?**

Are MIDO priorities state driven & not duplicated?

Clear distinction between state & national control or input into accreditation funds

The current tel hookups work well – use it for smaller groups also

All forms of communication but especially in the area of achievements & successes and the data used to get these milestones

Clear delegation of responsibility for specific projects

Regular and short telephone hookups on specific issues

Implement the existing communication plan - learn by doing

The iMEET! concept can be used more

The experience of using iMEET! has been very good today and consideration should be given to using it for all teleconferencing.

## **Compost Australia Committee 2009**

The Compost Australia Committee is composed of the Executive Committee from each state working group.

### ***New South Wales***

Tony Emery	Chair
John Vyse	Deputy Chair
Glen Ellery	Finance Officer
Garry Kimble	Secretary

### ***Victoria***

Simon Gardner Lee	Chair
John Graftdyk	Deputy Chair
Mark Globan	Finance Officer
Bill Grant	Secretary

### ***Western Australia***

Andy Gulliver	Chair
Tim Richards	Deputy Chair
Karl Koevort	Finance Officer
Bob Paulin	Secretary

### ***Queensland***

Dennis Baker	Chair
Martyn Walton	Deputy Chair
Georgina Davis	Finance Officer
Pam Pittaway	Secretary

### ***South Australia***

Paul Bowden	Chair
Peter Wadewitz	Deputy Chair
Craig Torney	Finance Officer