

# SYMPOSIUM FOR THE **Use of Organic Soil Amendments**



# 16 – 18

September 2025

Twin Towns  
Conference and  
Function Centre

Coolangatta, QLD

*Agronomic,  
environmental and  
societal benefits and  
risks of using organic  
soil amendments in  
agricultural production  
systems.*



Photo by M Hampton

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM AND INVITATION TO REGISTER

*This event has received financial support from the OECD's Co-operative  
Research Programme: Sustainable Agricultural and Food Systems*



“The Symposium for the Use of Organic Soil Amendments (SUOSA) will take place on the Southern Gold Coast from 16 to 18 September 2025, bringing together experts from agriculture, environmental sciences, economics, and policy to discuss the benefits, challenges, and future directions for the use of organic soil amendments in agricultural and horticultural production systems.”

This multi-disciplinary event will explore the agronomic, environmental, societal, regulatory and policy dimensions of using both solid and liquid organic amendments, which include raw or processed animal manures, agricultural residues, food and fibre processing residues, and urban organic residues, and where processing can include composting, pyrolysing, drying, digesting, insect farming, pelletising, granulating, value adding, etc. Discussions will address nutrient management, soil health, carbon sequestration, circular economy, regulatory frameworks, and farmer benefits and adoption.

# Welcome to the Symposium for the Use of Organic Soil Amendments



**I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to you to join us at the *Symposium for the Use of Organic Soil Amendments*. The Symposium, the first of its kind in Australia, represents a unique opportunity for you to broaden your knowledge, exchange ideas and experiences with national and international experts, and to build our capacity to make a meaningful impact on the advancement of agricultural and horticultural practices through the intelligent and innovative use of organic soil amendments.**

Over the course of three days, the Symposium will bring together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers with diverse expertise who are working to enhance the agronomic, economic and environmental benefits from the use of organic soil amendments. Overarching keynote addresses and talks presenting the latest research and analyses will provide a fertile ground for dynamic discussions and collaboration, bridging the gaps between science, industry, and government policies, and empowering stakeholders to cooperate and progress sustainable management strategies for organic residues, soils and agricultural enterprises.

Our program will feature keynote presentations from ten international and five Australian experts on a range of critically relevant topics, while round-table discussions are designed to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration. In addition, more than 60 oral and poster presentations will provide results and insights originating from a wide array of investigations evaluating the effects of organic soil amendments in the Australian agricultural environment.

Use of organic soil amendments has the potential to fulfil multiple agronomic, environmental, agro-food and climate policy objectives in an integrated fashion – let's make the most of it!

I look forward to welcoming you to our Symposium, and to your contribution to advancing and pushing forward towards a more sustainable future for our agricultural industries, food and fibre production, resilient, healthy soils, and, ultimately, towards a better future for our society as a whole.



Johannes Biala  
Symposium Convenor

## Contact and Further Information

Please contact our Event Organisers to discuss the package that is best for you. We are also able to create customised sponsor and display packages tailored to your specific needs.

Revolve Services  
T: 0400 449 100  
E: [veronica@revolveservices.com.au](mailto:veronica@revolveservices.com.au)  
W: [crown-compost.com.au](http://crown-compost.com.au)

# Who should attend

SUOSA is expected to attract up to 170 delegates, representing all key sectors of the organics recycling supply chain:

- > Agricultural & horticultural users of organic soil amendments
- > Agronomists & agricultural advisors
- > Academia and research organisations
- > Federal and State Government agencies
- > Generators of organic residues (e.g. intensive animal industries, food & fibre processing, local governments, wastewater industry)
- > Processors and suppliers of organic soil amendments

Participants are expected to attend primarily from across Australia and New Zealand, but also from the rest of the world.



## Management Team

- > **Johannes Biala**
- > **Prof Nanthi Bolan**
- > **Dr Vilim Filipović**
- > **Assoc Prof Beverley Henry**
- > **Dr Sharon Aarons**

## Organising Committee

- > **Johannes Biala (Chair)**  
University of Queensland
- > **David Barnes**  
Elders – Killara Feedlot (representing ALFA, Australian Lot Feeders' Association)
- > **Dr Glenn Dale**  
Representing Australian & New Zealand Biosolids Partnership
- > **Anne Dansey**  
Agriculture Victoria
- > **Bill Grant**  
Federation University
- > **Angus Johnston**  
Representing AORA (Australian Organics Recycling Association)
- > **Vaughan Levitzke**  
Circular Economy Advisory
- > **Dr Onyeka Nzie**  
Hort Innovation
- > **Daniella Park**  
National Vegetable Extension Network (Victoria)
- > **Janine Price**  
Scolexia Pty Ltd
- > **Dr John Rochecouste**  
Rural Sustainability
- > **Dr Muhammad Sohail**  
Representing Agronomy Australia
- > **Michael Walker**  
Soil Science Australia

## Scientific Committee

- > **Dr Vilim Filipovic (Chair)**  
University of Queensland
- > **Prof Nanthi Bolan (Deputy Chair)**  
University of Western Australia
- > **Dr Beverley Henry (Deputy Chair)**  
QLD University of Technology
- > **Dr Sharon Aarons**  
Agriculture Victoria
- > **Dist. Prof Andy Ball**  
RMIT University
- > **Dr Brent Clothier**  
The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research
- > **Prof Annette Cowie**  
NSW Dept of Primary Industries & Regional Development
- > **Prof Richard Culas**  
Charles Sturt University
- > **Dr Mark Farrell**  
CSIRO
- > **Dr Tim McLaren**  
University of Queensland
- > **Prof David Rowlings**  
QLD University of Technology
- > **Dr Chao Xiong**  
University of Western Sydney

# Program Overview

<b>Monday 15 September 2025</b>	Pre-Symposium Field Excursion to NSW DPI Wollongbar Primary Industries Institute (half-day)
<b>Tuesday 16 September 2025</b>	Opening Plenary Conference Sessions Trade Exhibition Networking Function
<b>Wednesday 17 September 2025</b>	Conference Sessions Trade Exhibition Symposium Dinner
<b>Thursday 18 September 2025</b>	Conference Sessions Trade Exhibition Closing Plenum & Outcomes Declaration
<b>Friday 19 September 2025</b>	Post-Symposium Field Excursion to Kalfresh Vegetables and Scenic Rim Agricultural Industrial Precinct (half-day)

## Posters

<b>Fate of pesticide and trace metals in soils amended with urban waste compost</b> Dr Vilim Filipovic <sup>1</sup> , Dr Yves Couet <sup>2</sup> & Dr Philippe Cambier <sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup> The University of Queensland, <sup>2</sup> UMR ECOSYS, INRAE, AgroParisTech, Université Paris-Saclay, France
<b>Using anaerobic digestate to enhance serradella yield and soil health</b> Dr Bede Mickan <sup>1</sup> , Dr Sasha Jenkins <sup>2</sup> & Prof Megan Ryan <sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup> Richgro/UWA, <sup>2</sup> The University of Western Australia
<b>Organic amendments enhance root microbiome resistance and wheat yield in drought</b> Dr Pankaj Singh, Dr Yunyun Zheng, Dr Bede Mickan & Prof Sasha Jenkins School of Agriculture and Environment, The University of Western Australia
<b>Synergistic effects of clay, hay residue, and fertilizer in sandy soil</b> Linda Ernawati Lindongi, Dr Sasha Jenkins, Prof Lynette Abbott & Dr Bede Mickan The University of Western Australia
<b>Legacy effects of organic amendments and pastures on soil microbial communities</b> Musfika Zaman, Dr Hira Shaukat, Dr Pankaj Singh & Prof Lynette Abbott The University of Western Australia
<b>Lauric Acid-Coated Biosolids: A strategy to reduce nitrogen loss?</b> Dr Sun Kumar Gurung, Dr James O'Connor, Dr Bede Mickan & Dr Sasha Jenkins The University of Western Australia
<b>Complementary effect of zoo compost with synthetic fertiliser increases yield</b> Ian Waite, Dr Bede Mickan & Prof Lynette Abbott The University of Western Australia
<b>Effects of compost use on saline-sodic soil irrigated with industrial effluent</b> Johannes Biala <sup>1</sup> & Judith Raue <sup>1</sup> The Organic Force
<b>Compost amendment for improving functionality of disturbed and degraded soils</b> Prof Josh Heitman, Gboyega Adebayo, Dr Cristina Kranz & Dr Erin Rivers North Carolina State University, USA
<b>Circular farming as a tool towards sustainability - medicinal plant production</b> Nino Atanasov VRM Biologik
<b>Placement effects of organic and synthetic nutrients in two contrasting pastures</b> Dr Rakesh Awale, Dr Sharon Aarons & Douglas Crawford Agriculture Victoria Research
<b>Spatiotemporal variability of phosphorus fractions in organic-amended sandy soil</b> Abhiram Muthyala <sup>1</sup> , Prof Brajesh Singh <sup>1</sup> , Dr Naveen Leno <sup>2</sup> & Dr MK Krishnapriya <sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup> Western Sydney University, <sup>2</sup> Kerala Agricultural University, India

# Preliminary program

Tuesday 16 September 2025

0800	REGISTRATION, TEA AND COFFEE	
0900	OPENING PLENARY	
	<b>Welcome and housekeeping</b> <b>Johannes Biala</b> , Conference Convenor	
	<b>Welcome and setting the scene</b> <b>Susie Chapman</b> , University of the Sunshine Coast	
	<b>OECD Cooperative Research Program: Symposium for the Use of Organic Soil Amendments</b> <b>Dr Andy Sheppard</b> , CSIRO, representing OECD's Co-operative Research Programme: Sustainable Agricultural and Food Systems	
0930	PLENUM 1: USE OF ORGANIC SOIL AMENDMENTS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE	
	<b>KEYNOTE: Opportunities and limitations for using organic soil amendments in enhancing sustainable soil and farm management in Australia</b> <b>Dr Michael Crawford</b> , CRC for High Performance Soils	
	<b>KEYNOTE: Sustaining Humanity - Past, present and future use of organic amendments in China</b> <b>Prof Jianbin Zhou</b> , Northwest A&F University, China	
1030	MORNING TEA BREAK	
1100	TECHNICAL SESSION 1A	TECHNICAL SESSION 1B
	<b>The chemical composition of phosphorus in a diversity of animal manures</b> <b>Swarna Shome</b> <sup>1</sup> , Prof Peter Kopittke <sup>1</sup> , Dr Mauricio Cunha Almeida Leite <sup>1</sup> & Dr Rakesh Awale <sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup> The University of Queensland, <sup>2</sup> Agriculture Victoria Research	<b>The use of municipal composts to improve &amp; deepen duplex clay soils</b> <b>Bill Grant</b> & Dr Thomas Baumgartl, Federation University
	<b>The phosphorus fertiliser value of animal manures</b> <b>Prof Terry Rose</b> , Southern Cross University	<b>Fortifying organic amendments to improve crop responses to subsoil amelioration</b> <b>Dr Daniel Hendrie</b> , Prof Roger Armstrong, Roger Perris & Mel Munn, Agriculture Victoria Research
	<b>The apparent phosphorus uptake of maize from layer manure products</b> <b>Weixin Yang</b> , Joshua Bennett-Jones, Dr Alwyn Williams & Johannes Biala, The University of Queensland	<b>Deep Sh!t: How feedlot manure is improving Queensland's cropping soils</b> <b>Cameron Silburn</b> & Dr David Lester, Queensland Department of Primary Industries
	<b>The fate of P from chicken manure and MAP in soil over multiple growing seasons</b> <b>Dr Timothy McLaren</b> <sup>1</sup> , Prof Michael Bell <sup>1</sup> , Swarna Shome <sup>1</sup> & Maurie Street <sup>2</sup> , <sup>1</sup> The University of Queensland, <sup>2</sup> Grain Orana Alliance	<b>Crop response to soil amelioration depends on soil properties and water dynamics</b> <b>Prof Roger Armstrong</b> <sup>1</sup> , Dr Katherine Dunsford <sup>1</sup> , Dr Daniel Hendrie <sup>1</sup> & Dr Nigel Wilhelm <sup>2</sup> , <sup>1</sup> Agriculture Victoria Research, <sup>2</sup> South Australian Research & Development Agency
1230	LUNCH	
1330	PLENUM 2: ORGANIC SOIL AMENDMENTS - WHAT'S IN IT FOR FARMERS	
	<b>KEYNOTE: The magic of organic matter: exploring interactions with soil, crops, and people</b> <b>Prof Dan Sullivan</b> , Oregon State University, USA	
	Session sponsored by: 	
1400	TECHNICAL SESSION 2A	TECHNICAL SESSION 2B
	<b>Rare and valuable long-term trials generate data to drive farmer adoption</b> <b>Andrew Dougall</b> , Sustainability Victoria	<b>Agronomic, environmental &amp; economic trade-offs for organic amendments in high-value horticulture</b> <b>Prof David Rowlings</b> <sup>1</sup> , Dr David Riches <sup>2</sup> , Dr Scott Mattner <sup>2</sup> , & Johannes Biala <sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup> Queensland University of Technology, <sup>2</sup> LaTrobe University, <sup>3</sup> The University of Queensland
	<b>The challenges of commercial application of soil organic amendments on farm</b> <b>Matthew Barnes</b> <sup>1</sup> & Dr John Rochecouste <sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup> CQ Compost, <sup>2</sup> Rural Sustainability Consultant	<b>Impact of compost-fertiliser coapplication on soil function and economic returns</b> <b>Dr Hira Shaikat</b> , Dr Pankaj Singh, Dr Sasha Jenkins & Prof Lynette Abbott, The University of Western Australia
	<b>Manure and Crop Rotation: A dual approach to maximizing forage yield</b> <b>Tamara Freitas-Kirk</b> , Dr Dannylo Souza & David Mayer, Queensland Department of Primary Industries	<b>Assessing economic impacts of organic fertiliser use in agriculture</b> <b>Assoc. Prof Richard Culas</b> , Charles Sturt University
1500	AFTERNOON TEA BREAK	

<b>1530</b>	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 3A</b>	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 3B</b>
	<b>Impact of applying treated dairy manure on pasture and soil</b> <b>Jose Lopez-Coronado<sup>1</sup></b> , Dr Sharon Aarons <sup>2</sup> , Dr Bruce Shelley & Dr Michael Heaven <sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup> The University of Melbourne, <sup>2</sup> Agriculture Victoria Research, <sup>3</sup> Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, Victoria	<b>Organic farm waste is particularly good shit!</b> <b>Dr Les Sandles</b> , Brix & Mortals
	<b>Optimising mixing in rotary drum composting for spinach productivity</b> <b>Dr Thanh Binh Nguyen</b> , Nong Lam University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	<b>Synergies of organic amendments and bio-stimulation outperforming fertiliser</b> <b>Shane Fitzgerald</b> , Metagen
	<b>Lauric acid regulates nitrogen cycling in wastewater-enriched compost</b> <b>Dr Sasha Jenkins</b> , Dr Sun Gurung, Dr James O'Connor & Dr Bede Mickan, The University of Western Australia	<b>Enhanced nutrient recovery from food waste anaerobic digestate</b> <b>Dr James O'Connor</b> , The University of Western Australia
	<b>Unintended Consequences: Organic N leaching from compost amended soils</b> <b>Cole Smith</b> & Dr William Horwath, University of California, Davis, USA	<b>Measuring improvements in soil biology using DNA sequencing techniques</b> <b>Dr Benjamin Evert</b> , Metagen
<b>1700</b>	<b>DAY 1 CLOSE</b>	
<b>1715</b>	<b>NETWORKING FUNCTION</b>	

Wednesday 17 September 2025

<b>0800</b>	<b>REGISTRATION, TEA AND COFFEE</b>	
<b>0830</b>	<b>PLENUM 3: ORGANIC SOIL AMENDMENTS AND SOIL CARBON SEQUESTRATION</b>	
	<b>KEYNOTE: The (short- and) long-term effects of using organic soil amendments on soil carbon levels</b> <b>Dr Denis Angers</b> , Agriculture & AgriFood Canada	
	<b>KEYNOTE: Soil carbon sequestration in Australia's ACCU Scheme</b> <b>Prof Karen Hussey</b> , Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	
<b>0930</b>	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 4A</b>	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 4B</b>
	<b>Reconciling C sequestration value and soil health benefit of organic amendments</b> <b>Prof Nanthi Bolan</b> , The University of Western Australia	<b>Clay-stabilised composts to enhance soil health and carbon storage.</b> <b>Zahra Nizbat</b> , Assoc Prof Zakaria M. Solaiman, Prof Kadambot Siddique & Prof Nanthi Bolan, The University of Western Australia
	<b>Combined application of biochar and compost enhanced soil organic carbon</b> <b>Siska Syaranamual</b> , Bahar Bicharanloo, Prof Feike Dijkstra & Prof Balwant Singh, The University of Sydney	<b>Source and processing of feedstock affects carbon and nutrient retention in soil</b> <b>Dr Kevin Wilkinson<sup>1</sup></b> & Dr Cassandra Scheffe <sup>2</sup> , <sup>1</sup> Frontier Ag & Environment, <sup>2</sup> AgriSci Pty Ltd
	<b>Optimising the application of novel compost-biochar blends for C stewardship</b> <b>George Mercer</b> & Dr Bede Mickan, The University of Western Australia	<b>Improving crop productivity by ameliorating alkaline dispersive subsoils with organic and inorganic amendments</b> <b>Dr Shahib Uddin</b> , Dr W Pitt, Dr D Armstrong & Dr S Hildebrand, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
<b>1030</b>	<b>MORNING TEA BREAK</b>	
<b>1100</b>	<b>PLENUM 4: ORGANIC SOIL AMENDMENTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE</b>	
	<b>KEYNOTE: What is the verdict about using organic soil amendments and GHG emissions?</b> <b>Prof Pil Joo Kim</b> , Gyeongsang National University, South Korea	
<b>1130</b>	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 5A</b>	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 5B</b>
	<b>Biochar improves nutrient retention &amp; the environment in 'soiless' horticulture</b> <b>Dr Simon Eldridge</b> , Dr Sophie Parks & Diana Unsworth, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	<b>The climate change mitigation potential of biochar</b> <b>Dr Annette Cowie<sup>1</sup></b> & Dr Han Weng <sup>2</sup> , <sup>1</sup> NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development <sup>2</sup> School of Agriculture, Food, and Wine, The University of Adelaide
	<b>Biochar based fertilisers to improve biochar adoption and circular economy</b> <b>Assoc. Prof Shahla Bai</b> , Griffith University	<b>Biochar interacted with digestate in controlling N<sub>2</sub>O emissions</b> <b>Dr Yunyun Zheng</b> , Dr Bede Mickan, Dr Sasha Jenkins & Prof Nanthi Bolan, The University of Western Australia
	<b>Why some fields cut emissions and others do not: revealed soil - biochar networks</b> <b>Dr Bruno Rafael Moreira<sup>1</sup></b> , Prof Sudhir Yadav <sup>1</sup> & Jinze Bai <sup>2</sup> , <sup>1</sup> Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), The University of Queensland, <sup>2</sup> Northwest A&F University	
<b>1230</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	

# Preliminary program

1330	<b>PLENUM 5: THE SCIENCE – POLICY NEXUS</b>
	<p><b>KEYNOTE: How does the EU manage the science-policy nexus to achieve tangible outcomes for both areas?</b> Dr Luis Sanchez-Alvarez, European Commission DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Belgium</p> <p><b>KEYNOTE: What scientific and policy advances did the European Joint Project SOIL deliver, and what can Australia learn from it?</b> Dr Saskia Keesstra, Wageningen University &amp; Research, Netherlands</p> <p><b>KEYNOTE: LEX4BIO - A project designed to deliver new science and new policies for optimising bio-based fertilisers in agriculture</b> Dr Kari Ylivainio, Natural Resource Institute, Finland</p> <p><b>KEYNOTE: Setting the direction for innovative soil science and sustainable land management in Australia</b> Sebastian Lang, Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</p>
1530	<b>AFTERNOON TEA BREAK</b>
1600	<b>PLENUM 6: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: HOW CAN WE ENSURE AN OPTIMAL SCIENCE – POLICY NEXUS THAT DELIVERS BOTH NEW SCIENCE AND NEW POLICIES?</b>
	<p>Participants: Luis Sanchez-Alvarez, Saskia Keesstra, Kari Ylivainio, Karen Hussey, Annette Cowie Facilitator: Beverley Henry</p>
1700	<b>DAY 2 CLOSE</b>
1900	<b>DINNER</b>

Thursday 18 September 2025

0800	<b>REGISTRATION, TEA AND COFFEE</b>	
0815	<b>PLENUM 7: QUALITY OF ORGANIC AMENDMENTS DEFINE THEIR AGRONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS</b>	
	<p><b>KEYNOTE: Quality matters when compost is used in agriculture</b> Prof Maria Pilar Bernal, Center for Edaphology and Applied Biology of Segura, Spanish National Research Council, Spain</p> <p><b>KEYNOTE: Making best use of organic amendments</b> John Williams, ADAS, UK</p>	
0915	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 6A</b>	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 6B</b>
	<p><b>Benefits of compost for soil health &amp; profit in peri-urban vegetable production</b> Dr Simon Eldridge, Dr Nerida Donovan &amp; Dr Kwong Yin Chan, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development</p> <p><b>Compost improves soil fertility and aggregation on Vertosols in Queensland.</b> Dr Gunnar Kirchhof, Ana Carolina de Mattos e Avila, Johannes Biala &amp; Dr Yash Dang, The University of Queensland</p> <p><b>Unlocking the value of organic soil amendments; results from a national study</b> Prof David Rowlings<sup>1</sup>, Dr Mark Bonner<sup>2</sup> &amp; Prof Wendy Quayle<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup> Queensland University of Technology, <sup>2</sup> Deakin University</p> <p><b>Bio-physical functions of organic matter in eco-engineering tailings into soil</b> Prof Longbin Huang, The University of Queensland</p>	<p><b>Uncovering the truth about granulated compost products</b> Joshua Bennett-Jones<sup>1</sup>, Johannes Biala<sup>1</sup>, Dr Alwyn Williams<sup>1</sup> &amp; Siyuan Wu<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup> The University of Queensland <sup>2</sup> BGI Research Institute, China</p> <p><b>Compost Granules: Can organo-mineral blends work in cropping systems?</b> Darren de Vos, WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development</p> <p><b>Developing Black Soldier Fly larvae frass as a high quality soil amendment</b> Dr Sasha Jenkins, Ian Waite, Dr Bede Mickan &amp; Prof Lynnette Abbott, The University of Western Australia</p> <p><b>Lignite Fortified Broiler Litter: A key organic soil amendment</b> Dr Clayton Butterly, Dr Brendon Costello &amp; Prof Deli Chen The University of Melbourne</p>
1045	<b>MORNING TEA BREAK</b>	
1115	<b>PLENUM 8: THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR ORGANICS AND OTHER CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS</b>	
	<p><b>KEYNOTE: Beyond the buzzword(s) - Systems thinking for a circular economy for organics</b> Vaughan Levitzke PSM, Circular Economy Advisory</p> <p><b>KEYNOTE: Supporting and advancing the circular economy for agricultural organics in Victoria</b> Anne Dansey, Agriculture Victoria</p>	

<b>1200</b>	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 7A</b>	<b>TECHNICAL SESSION 7B</b>
	<b>Enhancing the circular economy for organic waste recycling</b> <b>Dr Kevin Wilkinson<sup>1</sup></b> , & Johannes Biala <sup>2</sup> , <sup>1</sup> Frontier Ag & Environment, <sup>2</sup> The University of Queensland	<b>The Nutrient Calculator for Organic Amendments App</b> <b>Johannes Biala<sup>1</sup></b> , Prof David Rowlings <sup>2</sup> , Dr David Riches <sup>3</sup> & Dr Wendy Quayle <sup>4</sup> <sup>1</sup> The University of Queensland, <sup>2</sup> Queensland University of Technology, <sup>3</sup> La Trobe University, <sup>4</sup> Deakin University
	<b>Consumer perceptions of digestate fertilisers for an Australian circular economy</b> <b>Dr Bede Mickan</b> , Sarah Zou & Dr Curtis Rollins The University of Western Australia	<b>Mechanistic simulation of soil functional dynamics under compost-fertiliser</b> <b>Dr Hira Shaukat</b> , Dr Sasha Jenkins & Prof Lynette Abbott, The University of Western Australia
	<b>An ESG framework for sustainable manure management in animal production systems</b> <b>Dr Cassandra Howell<sup>1</sup></b> , Dr Bede Mickan <sup>1</sup> Dr Kelsey Pool <sup>1</sup> & Sophie Webb <sup>2</sup> , <sup>1</sup> The University of Western Australia, <sup>2</sup> Executive ESG	<b>Overcoming regulatory barriers to the reuse of organic agricultural resources</b> <b>Janine Price</b> , Scolexia Pty Ltd
<b>1300</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>1345</b>	<b>PLENUM 9: THE POTENTIAL FUTURE FOR THE USE OF ORGANIC SOIL AMENDMENTS</b>	
	<b>KEYNOTE: EU strategy for closing nutrient cycles and producing new soil improvers and bio-based mineral fertilisers</b> <b>Dr Oscar Schoumans</b> , Wageningen University & Research, Netherlands	
	<b>A framework for classifying waste-derived fertilisers in Australian agriculture</b> <b>Dr Bede Mickan<sup>1</sup></b> , George Mercer <sup>2</sup> , Dr Sasha Jenkins <sup>2</sup> , Prof Megan Ryan <sup>2</sup> & Dr Jiayin Pang <sup>2</sup> , <sup>1</sup> Richgro/UWA, <sup>2</sup> The University of Western Australia	
	<b>Wrap up and closing remarks</b> <b>Dr Vilim Filipović</b> , The University of Queensland <b>Assoc Prof Beverley Henry</b> , Queensland University of Technology <b>Prof Nanthi Bolan</b> , The University of Western Australia <b>Dr Sharon Aarons</b> , Agriculture Victoria Research	
<b>1515</b>	<b>SYMPOSIUM CLOSE</b>	

# Technical tours

## Monday 15 September 2025

All participants are required to wear long pants and enclosed, flat shoes. Afternoon tea and refreshments will be provided. We recommend that you bring a hat and sunscreen.

1200	REGISTRATION
1230	WOLLONGBAR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES INSTITUTE
Hosted by Dr Lukas van Zwieten (NSW DPI) and Prof Terry Rose (Southern Cross University)	
<b>This field excursion will include:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Field trial examining chicken manure vs superphosphate as phosphorus fertilisers for wheat production which is in the 2nd year. The first year compared the P sources and this year we are looking to see whether soil tests for P (e.g. Colwell or BSES) have similar critical values for wheat production. The wheat should be tillering or booting in September.</li><li>&gt; Organic amendments that are being developed/engineered for addressing a range of soil constraints, including declining soil organic C content. This work is in both growth cabinets as well as a Biora growth room with some unique features.</li><li>&gt; Approaches using stable isotopes that are being used to accurately account for priming effects on C resulting from different qualities of organic C.</li><li>&gt; A Custard apple farm and the use of on-farm produced compost.(time permitting).</li></ul>	
1730	TOUR RETURNS

## Friday 19 September 2025

All participants are required to wear long pants and enclosed, flat shoes. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. We recommend that you bring a hat and sunscreen.

0730	REGISTRATION
0800	KALFRESH VEGETABLES AND SCENIC RIM AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT
Hosted by Kalfresh Founding Director and Farmer Robert Hinrichsen.	
<b>This field excursion will include:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Paddock tour of commercial, conventionally grown carrot, bean and onion crops, and available cover crops.</li><li>&gt; Discussion about how Kalfresh integrates soil health and regenerative farming principles in commercial horticulture, including composting.</li><li>&gt; Discussion about Kalfresh's diversification into bioenergy production and our future use of digestate as a replacement for synthetic fertilisers. The Kalfresh Bioenergy Facility (Anaerobic Digester) will be the centrepiece of the Scenic Rim Agricultural Industrial Precinct. It will value-add agricultural waste and production by-products, urban food waste and crops to generate green electricity, renewable natural gas (RNG), and a bio-fertiliser (digestate) to be returned to the soils for the next crop.</li></ul>	
The bus will stop at Beenleigh Station at approximately 1:30pm on the return to the Gold Coast for any participants wishing to catch the AirTrain to Brisbane Airport.	
1430	TOUR RETURNS



## Venue

**Twin Towns Conference and Function Centre**  
**Corner Griffith & Wharf Street,**  
**Coolangatta, QLD 4225**

Nestled on the Queensland/New South Wales border, Twin Towns Conference & Function Centre and its onsite resort are just 10 minutes' easy drive from Gold Coast Airport.

The region is known as one of the most spectacular beachside destinations in Australia. The border towns are relaxed, people are friendly, and world-famous beaches are just footsteps from the venue.

## Location

Australia's Gold Coast is a unique city and one of the world's best holiday and conferencing destinations. It has everything that is great about Australia, all in one easy to reach location. A spectacular coastline, World Heritage listed rainforest, an exciting city centre, golf courses, theme parks, shopping, restaurants and year-round events.

A sun-kissed city by the sea, the Gold Coast is a place defined by an unmistakable energy. Each year, over 13 million visitors flock to the city, eager to soak up the sun, feel the sand between their toes and take part in the near limitless range of attractions and experiences.

Located on Australia's South-East Queensland coastline, the Gold Coast is serviced by two major airports. Brisbane Domestic and International Airport is less than one-hours' drive away, while Gold Coast Airport is just 30 minutes' drive from the centre of Surfers Paradise. Direct flights to and from all Australian capital cities and regional areas, plus a majority of metropolitan centres across the globe are readily available through a wide range of airlines. The Gold Coast also has an extensive public transport network.



# Accommodation

The Sebel Twin Towns and Mantra Twin Towns are pleased to extend to all guests of the Symposium for the Use of Organic Soil Amendments 10% off\* the Daily Accommodation Rate, for the date range of 13th September – 20th September 2025.

The hotel rooms and apartments are beautifully appointed with stylish and comfortable furniture and all the amenities you need to make yourself at home. Relax in the on-site pool or take a short walk down to Greenmount Beach.

**To book, call 1800 192 020**

**or email [twintowns.res@mantra.com.au](mailto:twintowns.res@mantra.com.au)**

*\*Minimum length of stay applies over the weekend. Terms and Conditions apply. Subject to availability at the time of booking and subject to change. Discount does not apply to sale rates.*



# General information

## HOW TO REGISTER

All registrations must be completed through the online booking form available at <https://www.crown-compost.com.au/suosa/register/register-now/>

The registration process takes approximately 5 minutes and payment can be made using Visa, MasterCard or AMEX (please note there may be a 1.1% surcharge for AMEX).

To request access codes for speaker, government and student registration, please contact our team (see details at the end of this page).

Presenting authors of accepted oral presentations will receive a 50% discount on registration fees. Only one discount (e.g. speaker/student) may be claimed per registration.

## PAYMENT

Registration will not be confirmed until payment is received in full

All fees are in Australian Dollars \$AUD and are inclusive of 10% Goods and Services Tax (GST)

## CANCELLATIONS

Cancellation of your registration must be advised in writing to [suosa@revolveservices.com.au](mailto:suosa@revolveservices.com.au).

Cancellations received on or before 31 July 2025 will receive a full refund less a \$165 administration fee, cancellations received after this date will not receive a refund, however, we will accept delegate name changes at any time leading up to the event (differences in registration fees may be applicable).

## INTERNATIONAL ATTENDEES

If needed, visa applications need to be made well in advance at the Australian Embassy in your country or in some cases can be made online. For more information about Entry Visa's for Australia please visit <https://www.crown-compost.com.au/suosa/register/visa-applications>

## DIETARY AND SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Please advise on your registration form if you have any dietary or special requirements.

## DRESS CODE

TECHNICAL TOUR: Long pants and enclosed flat shoes are mandatory.

SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS & SOCIAL EVENTS: Business/smart casual.

## LOCATION

Twin Towns Conference and Function Centre (Level 3)

Corner Griffith & Wharf Street, Coolangatta, QLD 4225

## PARKING

Free parking is available for members, Mantra hotel guests, and general patrons.

For guests arriving prior to 9am, enter the free underground carpark via Stuart Street, take the lift to reception level and use the walkway bridge to the main foyer, and then take the lifts to Level 3.

[Click here to download the Twin Towns parking guide.](#)

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

For public transport information please visit: <https://jp.translink.com.au/plan-your-journey/stops/300052>

## PRIVACY

In registering for this event, relevant details may be incorporated into a delegate list for the benefit of all delegates (name, organisation and title) and may be made available to parties directly related to the event including the convenor and sponsors (subject to conditions). If you do not wish to be included in the delegate list, please email [suosa@revolveservices.com.au](mailto:suosa@revolveservices.com.au).

## DISCLAIMER

Every effort has been made to present all the information contained in this brochure as accurately as possible. The organisers reserve the right to change, without notice, any or all of these details.

## PHOTOGRAPHY/RECORDING

By registering for the Symposium for the Use of Organic Soil Amendments you consent and grant permission to the convenor, its agents and others working under its authority, to take and to have full and free use of video/photographs containing your image/likeness. These images and recordings may be used for promotional, news, online/multimedia, research and/or educational purposes by and for the symposium convenor. Copies of the event photographs will be made available to the attendees after the event.

## CONTACT

If you have any questions about the Symposium please contact us using the details below:

T: 1300 421 065

E: [suosa@revolveservices.com.au](mailto:suosa@revolveservices.com.au)



[www.crown-compost.com.au](http://www.crown-compost.com.au)