



Program - Compost Benefits for Soils on the Mid-North Coast

Friday 12th October 7:45am – 4pm Coffs Harbour National Marine Science Centre, Southern Cross University.
2 Bay Dr, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

MORNING

7:45am – 8:10am	Registration/ Sign up for afternoon site visits. Tea and Coffee Avail on Arrival
8:10am – 8:20am	Welcome and Introduction to AORA by Event Chair Thank you to those Sponsoring and Supporting the event
8:20am – 9:45am	Local Organics Recycling Industry Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AORA Local Processing Members, Biomass Solutions, JR Richards and Remondis – Will each present on recycled organic products and processes, tailored to growers attending. • Coffs Harbour Council, Leanne Cheal – Leanne’s presentation will highlight the regions organics circular economy and role played by council in management of domestic organic waste. (20min with questions) • BASF Australia to speak on agricultural bioplastics certified biodegradable in and on soils
9:45am – 10:30am	Grower Perspectives – Benefits and hurdles with soil management and compost application on slopes planted with avocados and bananas. Paul Shoker and Jeff Eggins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations by growers and questions • Platfarm – Use of soils mapping and aerial imaging in precision application of compost.
10:30 – 11:00am	Morning tea/Sign up for afternoon site visits.
11am – 12pm	Speaker 2 Benefits of Compost in building soils in the region and an Alternative method for compost application on steep slopes in the Coffs Harbour Region, Justine Cox, Soil Scientist, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Wollongbar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Justine Cox and questions • Discussion by all - Cooperative approaches to make effective methods for application accessible to local growers.
12pm – 12:45pm	Lunch/ Sign up for afternoon site visits.
12:45pm – 1:15pm	Self-drive to site visit locations.
1:15pm – 4pm	Site Visits
4pm – 4:15pm	Return to a Local Pub - Close and Thankyou address

AFTERNOON

Site visits to farms will require a disinfecting foot-bath to be used prior to entry, to manage biosecurity risks.

Each Stream to have an assigned Stream Coordinator

Site Visits – Stream 1 Avocados and Banana Grower 1:15pm – 4pm

Stream Coordinator: Justine Cox and Matt Weinert, NSW Department of Primary Industries

- Local growers Paul Shoker and Jeff Eggins will provide insights into what it takes to grow the tastiest and most nutritional bananas and avocados.
- Tour a local farm to see up close how soil is managed including the benefits and challenges associated with using compost.
- Hear from NSW DPI staff to learn more on their recent compost application trials and other programs aimed at further increasing yields, quality as well as to continue lifting sustainability within the banana industry on the Mid-North Coast.

Site Visits – Stream 2 Blueberry Growers 1:15pm – 4pm

Stream Coordinator: Simon Proust, Soil Conservation Consultant

- Visit the Adel Training Farm planted with ten hectares of blueberries and hear from Farm Manager, Sandra McLennan on the establishment of the farm and composting goals moving forward. The blueberry farm provides both a source of revenue to support the drug and alcohol rehabilitation program provided by the charity as well as a way of providing work and job skills to clients.
- Simon will then take us to see a bioreactor situated on another blueberry farm. Bioreactors – are lined pits full of woodchips covered with rocks which intercept high nitrate runoff from blueberries. Bacteria in the adjacent soil are drawn to the woodchip breaking down the nitrates in solution releasing it as an inert gas. The key outcome being less nutrients and less eutrophication of creeks & streams.

Site Visits – Stream 3 Organics Recycler 1:15pm – 4pm

- Visit the Biomass Solutions facility to learn how regional organic waste streams are recycled into compost.
- ROI are invited from those interested in touring Remondis organics recovery facility in Port Macquarie.
- ROI are invited from those interested in touring JR Richards organics recovery facility in Grafton.

Informal Presentations:

During the site visits network and hear from attendees about:

- The latest knowledge about use of recycled organic products such as compost and mulch.
- Mulch film that is certified biodegradable in and on soils.
- Organic Teas made from worm castings and compost.

This information session is supported by NSW DPI, as part of a NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More Organics Market Development grant, funded from the waste levy. Sponsorship by AORA Platinum + Sponsor BASF Australia, JR Richards and Remondis and in-kind support from Biomass Solutions, Environmental Analysis Laboratory and Southern Cross University are also appreciated in allowing this NSW AORA event to occur.

