CALL FOR PAPERS

The Australian & New Zealand Biosolids Partnership (ANZBP) is an Australian Water Association (AWA) Industry Program. The Program provides a platform to bring together utilities, consultants, suppliers, researchers and government agencies to progress and champion the sustainable management of biosolids.

EVIDENCE INTO ACTION

The biosolids sector is navigating increasing complexity, from emerging contaminants and evolving regulation to changing technologies, market pressures, environmental priorities and community expectations.

The **National Biosolids Conference 2027** will explore how research, operational experience and sector knowledge can be translated into confident decisions and practical outcomes. Bringing together producers, regulators, researchers, practitioners, consultants, technology providers and end users, the conference will examine what is working, what we are learning and how the sector can respond to both current challenges and future uncertainty.

Under the theme ***Evidence into Action***, the conference will showcase applied research, operational case studies and practical lessons from across Australia, New Zealand and beyond. The program will explore source control, regulation and risk, best-practice operations, asset optimisation, infrastructure and thermal processing, product development, circular economy outcomes, carbon and energy, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and beneficial end use.

Whether your work represents a major breakthrough, an incremental improvement, or valuable lessons from an initiative that did not perform as expected, **National Biosolids Conference 2027** provides a specialist forum for sharing evidence, challenging assumptions and translating knowledge into practical action.

SUGGESTED CALL FOR PAPERS TOPICS

Submissions are invited across the following topics. The examples provided are intended as prompts rather than limitations. Authors should select the topic that most closely reflects the principal focus of their work.

National Biosolids Conference 2027 welcomes evidence from every stage of practice, from proven improvements to established operations through to research, emerging technologies and long-term strategies.

We particularly encourage submissions from operators, trade waste teams, planners, regulators, farmers, agronomists, land managers and other practitioners whose experience may not traditionally feature in conference programs. Submissions do not need to present a major capital project or a perfect outcome. Incremental improvements and candid lessons can provide some of the sector's most useful evidence.

ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION

Case studies of successful stakeholder engagement, community consultation and education initiatives; building social licence; communicating the benefits, risks and opportunities associated with biosolids; engaging decision makers, communities and end users; responding to incidents and misinformation; the role of social media; workforce education, knowledge sharing and capability development.

PROTECTING VALUE & THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Protecting and realising the inherent value of biosolids, including nutrients, carbon and organic matter; maximising resource recovery; keeping valuable resources in productive use; waste diversion; soil health; beneficial use in

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
LOCUS LIU, INTERNATIONAL AND INDUSTRY PROGRAM COORDINATOR - LLIU@AWA.ASN.AU

agriculture, forestry, rehabilitation, compost and blended products; developing viable end-use markets; demonstrating environmental, economic and community benefits.

STRATEGY & PLANNING

Long-term biosolids strategies and future servicing models; responding to changing regulation, markets and emerging risks; scenario and adaptive planning; technology and infrastructure roadmaps; investment and procurement decisions; protecting beneficial-use pathways; contingency planning; and building resilient, sustainable biosolids management strategies.

CARBON, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES

Carbon sequestration and soil carbon; greenhouse gas measurement and reduction; carbon accounting; lifecycle assessment; net-zero strategies; energy generation and recovery; emissions from treatment, transport and end use; carbon-credit schemes; climate resilience; biodiversity and land-rehabilitation outcomes; balancing carbon, cost, risk and resource value.

RISK MANAGEMENT & REGULATION

Contaminant identification and management; the role and implementation of biosolids guidelines and regulation; risk assessment and risk-based decision-making; PFAS, microplastics and other emerging contaminants; sampling and analytical methods; exposure pathways; NEMP 3.1; jurisdictional differences; evidence-based controls; and collaboration between utilities, regulators and end users.

SOURCE CONTROL

Contamination prevention and upstream intervention; trade waste management; PFAS source identification, tracking and reduction; leachate, industrial, commercial and domestic sources; microplastics and other emerging contaminants; sewer-network and sewage-quality monitoring; data-led investigations; headworks improvements; regulation of chemical manufacture and use; cross-industry collaboration; and evidence from attempted or successful source-control initiatives.

We particularly welcome practical examples of source-control measures at any stage of development. Evidence of incremental progress and lessons from approaches that did not proceed as expected are encouraged.

BEST PRACTICE IN OPERATIONS

Practical improvements to established processes and business-as-usual activities; digester optimisation; sludge and scum management; dewatering performance; polymer and chemical reduction; odour management; lagoon desludging; storage and transport; process monitoring; operator-led innovation; maintenance practices; and measurable improvements in safety, efficiency, quality or reliability.

Submissions from operators and operational teams are strongly encouraged. Projects do not need to be large or groundbreaking to provide valuable lessons for the sector.

ASSET OPERATIONS & OPTIMISATION

Optimising existing treatment assets, plant and equipment; asset reliability, resilience and performance; process control and automation; equipment selection and retrofits; capacity constraints; asset renewal; energy and resource efficiency; integration of new processes into existing facilities; condition and performance monitoring; and data-informed operational decisions.

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING & DELIVERY

Planning, designing, procuring, delivering and commissioning biosolids infrastructure; facility upgrades; technology selection; business cases; system design; project delivery models; constructability; integration with wastewater treatment operations; scalability; lifecycle performance; and lessons from completed or underperforming projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
LOCUS LIU, INTERNATIONAL AND INDUSTRY PROGRAM COORDINATOR - LLIU@AWA.ASN.AU

THERMAL PROCESSING & TRANSFORMATION

Drying, pyrolysis, gasification, combustion and other thermal technologies; biochar and transformed products; contaminant destruction and management; energy recovery; emissions; mass and energy balances; technology trials; product quality; regulatory pathways; commercial viability; and performance at laboratory, pilot, demonstration or full operational scale.

Submissions should clearly identify the maturity of the technology and distinguish between proposed capability, trial results and demonstrated operational performance.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

New and alternative biosolids products; improving product quality, consistency, acceptance and commercial viability; nutrient and resource recovery; biological and non-thermal treatment technologies; applied research; laboratory, pilot and full-scale trials; pathways to commercialisation and investment; and lessons from innovations that did not deliver the expected outcome.

END USERS, AGRICULTURE & LAND APPLICATION

Farmer, agronomist, land manager and product-customer perspectives; best-practice land application; crop performance; soil health and nutrient outcomes; application rates and methods; product handling, quality and reliability; environmental monitoring; market confidence; commercial relationships; barriers to adoption; land rehabilitation; and long-term evidence from beneficial use.

Submissions under a **WILDCARD** sub-theme will also be accepted.

WHO SHOULD SUBMIT?

National Biosolids Conference 2027 welcomes submissions from professionals involved directly or indirectly in the production, treatment, regulation, management and beneficial use of biosolids.

We particularly encourage submissions from:

- Water and wastewater utility professionals
- Operators and operational teams
- Trade waste and source-control professionals
- Regulators, policymakers and government representatives
- Farmers, agronomists, land managers and product users
- Researchers, academics and students
- Consultants and environmental specialists
- Technology and equipment providers
- Biosolids processors, transporters and contractors
- Sustainability, carbon, planning and community-engagement professionals

Submissions are welcomed from people at all career stages and from organisations of every size. Presentations may address major projects, applied research, operational improvements, emerging technologies, strategic initiatives or practical lessons from work that did not proceed as expected.

A selection of keynote and invited speakers will complement the submitted program by providing new perspectives, specialist expertise and thematic direction.

Abstracts should clearly describe the issue or opportunity addressed, the approach taken, the evidence or experience that will be presented, the principal findings and the practical value to the biosolids sector. Please use the template available on the event webpage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
LOCUS LIU, INTERNATIONAL AND INDUSTRY PROGRAM COORDINATOR - LLIU@AWA.ASN.AU

The abstracts will be reviewed by the Program Planning Committee. Selection will be based on:

- Relevance to the industry
- Link to conference theme
- Appeal to broad audience
- Originality
- Technical content

Proof of client endorsement of abstracts and final paper will be required before acceptance of papers citing project references to limit overt commercial or marketing content.
Presentation time allocation during the conference will be 20 minutes inclusive of question time.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Authors may submit more than one abstract or case study

- Authors may submit an abstract or case study that you are also submitting for Ozwater'27
- Abstracts are to be no longer than 400 words and no more than one page
- Abstracts must:
  - Include speaker biography (not included in word count)
  - Be submitted electronically on the platform provided
  - Be submitted in PDF format using the template provided
  - Not contain pictures or graphics
- Presenters must register for the conference
- By submitting you also give permission for your abstract to be considered for inclusion in the Association's eJournal

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract deadline: **21 September 2026**
Notification of selection: **16 October 2026**
Speaker registration deadline: **2 November 2026**
Final paper and presentation due: **24 February 2027**
All presenters will be required to provide a copy of their presentation (and paper if applicable) by this date for inclusion on the AWA website and conference app for delegates to download.

THE PAUL DARVODELSKY BIOSOLIDS CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP

ANZBP will sponsor two Australian or New Zealand postgraduate research students to attend National Biosolids Conference 2027.
Eligible master's and PhD students undertaking research relevant to biosolids are encouraged to apply for the opportunity to receive a scholarship to attend the conference.
Further information, eligibility requirements and application details are available at the website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
LOCUS LIU, INTERNATIONAL AND INDUSTRY PROGRAM COORDINATOR - LLIU@AWA.ASN.AU