

# COMPOST in the ENVIRONMENT

Sustainability Programs  
Division

# Incinerators, Mosman, Balgowlah



## Landfills – any old space will do...

- Council landfill at Mona Vale Beach
- Landfills at Curl Curl Lagoon, Balmoral Beach, and North Steyne Beach



## Today – State and Local Governments regulate and manage resource recovery and ‘waste’.

- DECCW - Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act
- DECCW - NSW Waste Strategy 2006 – commitment to increase organics recycling
- State Plan, soil quality improvements and DECCW Corporate Plan sustainability commitments

# Recycled Organics – do you eat it?



# Compost production ...continued



## The Why's: Sustainability benefits

- Reduces methane impacts of landfills – major greenhouse gas.
- In 2006-2007 3.7 MtCo<sub>2</sub>-e prevented – same as saved from landfill gas use.
- Reduces leachate from landfills

## Major environmental benefits of using composts

- Reduces demand for finite resources – soil, sand
- Increases plant productivity
- Increases soil health and water quality
- Saves water – 30% good average
- Reduces fertiliser / pesticide / herbicide use
- Soil carbon sequestration & N<sub>2</sub>O avoidance
  - ~ 120kg/DM tonne per 100 years
  - ~ 370kg/DM tonne per 50 years
  - ~520kg/DM tonne per 20 years
- Great opportunity close the loop locally

## Organics recycling in NSW – a success story

- NSW - a national leader in organics recycling One third of Councils in NSW have kerbside organics collection service.
- Across NSW - 2008 / 2009 - over 777,000 tonnes of garden organics recycled.
- Over 1.8 million tonnes of ‘recycled organics’ (comprising garden organics, food organics, wood / timber, biosolids and other organics) received at NSW processing facilities.

# Sustainability Programs Projects



## Horticulture

- Water savings of up to 30%
- Increased productivity
- Improved soil health, improved soil carbon
- Soil temperature buffering
- Decreased NO<sub>2</sub> emissions



# Catchment Rehabilitation



# Sporting Fields

- Reduction in soil bulk density and surface hardness for softer / safer for play
- Improved recovery of playing surfaces from wear
- Improved appearance (greening) following application
- Reduced demand for watering



# Mine site rehabilitation

- Six year trial in Hunter area, Narama minesite.
- Best growth – mulch with biosolids
- Soil conditioner improved survival



## Other projects...

- **Viticulture – water savings, improved grape quality**
- **Best Practice Guidelines for sporting fields**
- **Minesite rehabilitation**
- **Counting carbon, greenhouse gas savings, and carbon sequestration**
- **Publications**
- **MIDO**

## Further Information:

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Information, resources and case studies

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au>

<http://www.recycledorganics.com>