



**Australian Organics Recycling Association Limited**  
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31 January 2020

The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP  
Treasurer of Australia  
Via email: [prebudgetsubs@treasury.gov.au](mailto:prebudgetsubs@treasury.gov.au)

Dear Treasurer

### **Pre-Budget Submission on Behalf of the Organics Recycling Industry**

We are pleased to provide this Pre-Budget Submission on behalf of the Australian Organics Recycling Industry and thank you for the opportunity to do so.

AORA, the Australian Organics Recycling Association, is the national representative organisation for the industry. AORA works with stakeholders to facilitate the conditions through which organic resources can be sustainably and cost-effectively recycled, and to promote the beneficial use of compost, soil conditioners and mulches in primary industries.

AORA will, in April 2020, launch our National Industry Policy Document entitled *20:20 Vision: Australia's World Leading Organics Recycling Industry of 2040, and How to Get There*.

The document will provide a clear 20-year vision for a larger and stronger Organics Recycling Industry, removing and reusing a significant proportion of current landfill streams, and providing valuable and reliable products which will significantly support Australia's long-term drought mitigation, soil improvement, water retention, carbon reduction and agricultural productivity needs.

AORA represents what is already Australia's most successful recycling industry, which has consistently and reliably delivered on the promise of a circular economy. The opportunities for the future are great, and we look forward to discussing these with you and others in Government following the launch of our industry policy document.

In the meantime, the inevitable first step of the journey will be significant work in developing the capacity of the industry to understand and efficiently respond to the needs of its current and emerging end users, whilst also improving end user understanding of the effective use of the industry's products.

To this end, we request the government's support for a series of national industry development workshops, to be delivered in each state by AORA in conjunction with the peak agriculture representative organisations.

These workshops will cover issues such as (but not limited to):

### **Soil quality and health**

- Why we need to use composts on our soils
- What to look for in your soils
- Soil degradation processes and rehabilitation
- The importance of soil carbon.

### **What is and what is not a compost**

- Understanding the decomposition process
- What will be in a composted product
- Aerobic and anaerobic processes
- The importance of particle size.

### **Is all compost the same?**

- Understanding the importance of the raw materials going into the mix
- C:N and other ratios.

### **How much do I need to apply?**

- The process of working out how much to apply
- Soil tests, crop/pasture demands, etc.

### **How long will it take to see results?**

- What happens when compost is applied to soil
- How various nutrients become available to plants.

### **Contaminations**

- Pathogens, plastics, foreign particles, heavy metals.

## Case studies

- The real-world economics of applying compost in different environments.

The contribution requested of the Federal Government for the delivery of these workshops in major regional centres in every state and territory in FY2020-21, is \$180,000.

This contribution will be used to cover the direct costs of delivering the series of approximately 30 workshops. AORA and its delivery partners will at least match this with in-kind contributions including provision of venues, promotion, marketing, communications, trainers and facilitators, follow up requirements of attendees and others in the ecosystem, and reporting of outcomes. The Federal Government will be recognised as a partner in all material and in each workshop.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further information or clarification of any matter raised here. The AORA Board and members look forward to working with the Federal Government to deliver an even stronger Organics Recycling Industry, to the benefit of all Australians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Olah', with a small flourish at the end.

**Peter Olah**

National Executive Officer

for

**Peter Wadewitz**

National Chair