

Vital Resource Management

Just add water for better agribusiness outcomes.



VRM uses probiotic techniques to boost agriculture.

Sustainable environmental management is becoming increasingly important and has led one Townsville-based company to apply unique technology to its safe, effective products for the agriculture and waste management sectors.

Vital Resource Management (VRM) uses a patented environmentally-friendly process involving microscopic organisms to control the nutrient make-up of soil and waste water.

VRM CEO Ken Bellamy said the company's products were based on probiotic techniques and formulations normally used in food and drinks.

"A farmer can use our products to improve available phosphorus levels in their soil in lieu of large scale addition of fertilizer or buffer against soil

drying by building carbon in the soil," Mr Bellamy said.

"The mobilisation of nitrogen, phosphorus and calcium which result in improved carbon levels allows us to bring a revolutionary approach to soil nutrient management.

"We also provide specific cultures to treat waste water before it reaches conventional sewerage treatment facilities or passes through septic or similar systems.

"So odour, corrosive atmospheres and fat build-ups which generally plague waste water systems are significantly reduced or overcome.

"These energy-efficient treatment options bring us closer to the legitimate promotion of large scale waste water reuse programs and the ability to re-use bio-solids as real inputs to sustainable agriculture.

"We've had great success providing our waste water treatment products to the bulk of the sugar industry, including CSR Sugar Mills, Bundaberg Sugar, Tully Sugar and Mackay Sugar."

MANY OTHER BENEFITS

Mr Bellamy said VRM products were recognised for their benefits beyond environmental sustainability.

"Customers can also license our technology to badge and distribute or to build upon our technology to create their own product," he said.

"Our technology has a shelf life, allowing it to be bought and sold in commercial quantities, which has previously not been an option.

"Another key benefit is the process reliability which VRM products offer to systems within both the agriculture and waste water industries.

"Clients repeatedly tell us they can achieve a consistent outcome when using our processes and formulations, which is vital for quality control and

process management.

"And there's also the chance to save considerable money – one 20-litre drum of concentrated product can be diluted to make more than 1000 litres of agricultural products."

VRM recently attended Enviro 08 the premier national conference in Australia dealing with environmental and sustainability issues, held in Melbourne as part of a national Australian Technology Showcase (ATS) contingent.

"There's tremendous interest in making use of bio-solids (treated sludge) within the compost and sewerage industries as accelerators for soil enhancement in agriculture but traditional processes have produced inconsistent outcomes," Mr Bellamy said.

"That's where VRM can help. We have demonstrated processes which allow biosolids to reach acceptable temperature levels in order that they can be moved. This allows collection and transfer for processing outside urban areas."

SUSTAINABLE APPROACH

Mr Bellamy reflected on the future of the company and the push to help make the industry focus on sustainability.

"VRM hopes to partner with different companies in the agriculture industry. These include Rural Co. and several companies offering digestion and processing of bio-solids to build the uptake of soil enhancement processes, distribution networks and product provision in that industry," he said.

Mr Bellamy said being an ATS member brought the company credibility by raising its profile.

"We are now recognised for our innovative practices – ATS is helping us with contacts and we are excited to be a part of the program."

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