

AORA Board of Directors

Chairman – Paul Coffey



Paul is an Instrumentation and Control Engineer with over thirty years technical, commercial and management experience in process design and materials handling in the government, manufacturing, mining and food industries. This experience is complemented by twenty years as a hands on manager providing innovative solutions to the generators of organic waste for recycling and processing.

Between 1990 and June 1996 Paul was a Director and General Manager of Australia's first dedicated biosolids management company. He negotiated and established the first privately owned and operated biosolids processing facility on an Australian Water Authorities site.

Responsible for contracts for the processing and management of in excess of 300,000 tonnes of biosolids and organic wastes, Mr Coffey is a recognised and active participant in the Australian Biosolids and Organic Waste Recycling Industries.

Paul has travelled extensively in Australia, Europe, UK and USA to study biosolids and organic waste processing methods, technologies and reuse options. He has been invited to chair conferences and to participate in National and International workshops.

Paul has extensive experience in the development of green waste and organics collection, processing and marketing strategies for communities and local government. Paul is a well-respected member of the organic waste recycling industry and was Chairman of Compost NSW (1997–1999), an industry body and division of the Waste Management Association of Australia.

Director – Tony Emery



Tony Emery is the Founder, Director, and Market Development Manager of Soilco Pty Ltd. A graduate of Tocal Agricultural College, Tony is a fifth generation resident of Wogamia that has run a family and dairy and cropping operation on the Shoalhaven River flats.

In the early 1980s Tony branched out and formed Shoalhaven Sand, Soil, and Gravel, today known as SOILCO which has grown into a large soil extraction and composting business with retail outlets in both Nowra and Wollongong.

Tony believes a sustainable future depends upon the efficient use of resources and innovation in the way we live and work. In his role as Managing Director, Tony is an active member of many industry bodies, including the Waste Management Association, Chair of Compost NSW and is a foundation Treasurer and currently Vice Chair of Compost Australia.

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Locally Tony is involved in Landcare, Catchment Management committees, and the Shoalhaven River Estuary Task Force. Tony holds Executive positions on both the Illawarra Business Chamber and the Shoalhaven Business Chamber and takes a keen interest in road transport issues.

Keen to improve his knowledge on waste and composting, Tony recently toured Europe with an eye to assisting not only his own business but also other businesses and councils on the South Coast in their environmental performance.

Peter Wadewitz



Peter served as Chairman of Compost Australia for three years and has devoted his career to the composting industry. For the past 30 years, he has been involved with commercial compost processing at Peats Soil and Garden Supplies in South Australia. Aside from his family, work is also a great passion particularly since his invention of the BiobiN. With over 30 years in business and his own farm in Brinkley, SA, Peter has a personal passion to see the use of compost products grow within the farming industry. In 2006, Peter was awarded South Australian of the Year in the environmental category, recognising his hard work in the industry over many years.

Rob Niccol



Rob is the Sales & Marketing Manager of Australian Native Landscapes. He has over 30 years experience in the field of intensive horticultural production, landscape construction and sales. Following a decade in both container crop production & landscape construction he joined ANL in the role of technical sales. Now in the role of Sales & Marketing Manager he has driven much of ANL's product design and technical development over the past decade. With a long and active history in the organics recycling sector, he holds a Masters Degree in Business and Commerce, a Bachelors Degree in Science – Urban Horticulture and an Associate Diploma - Horticulture.

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Martin Tower



Martin has over ten years experience in the composting industry during which time he has held positions as Director and as a Senior Executive of a range of composting and biogas/power generation companies. He brings significant leadership experience as a retired Army Officer backed with formal qualifications in business administration (MBA). Martin's expertise is in the recycling of organic by-products from intensive livestock facilities and the fit for purpose application of these products to improve soil health.

Michael Wood



Michael began his career following a Commerce degree and a Grad Dip in Applied Science Horticulture, working in large scale production nurseries. Here he developed a deep understanding of plant nutrition and compost based medias used in container horticulture and nutrition in the field with large vegetable producers. Michael was an executive member of the Nursery & Garden Industry Association and was instrumental in launching The Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show as one its inaugural Board members.

Later, focused on sales, marketing and business development he was based in Los Angeles assisting large horticultural producers across the USA, Canada, The UK, Ireland and South Africa develop new plant products through growing production and marketing programs through major retailers like The Home Depot, Lowes, Wal-Mart and independent outlets.

Returning to Australia in 2002, he started his own consultancy, Oakwood Consultants and began with Enviromix as a consultant in 2008 assisting with compost production, certification and fit for purpose sales programs. His horticultural perspective is unusual within the organic recycling industry. In 2010 he took on managing Enviromix during a difficult period for the organic recycling industry and has guided the company's progress since. In 2012 Enviromix partnered with BioGrowth Solutions, a small feedlot composter in the Goulburn Valley to form Biomix Pty Ltd, a compost facility in development.



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