

The Fertilizer

News and information from the Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia



F I F A

FIFA Strategy Update

Following a round of detailed consultation with FIFA members and presentation and discussion at the AGM in September a revised FIFA Strategy was adopted at the December Board meeting. Communication now has a higher profile in the strategy and FIFA will be taking a more active role in the security debate. [More...](#)

FIFA Security Policy

As the deadline for the new licensing regimes in New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria draws near the issue of security is again in the news. In the New Year FIFA is expecting to be involved in consultations with the Government over other products that are of security concern. The FIFA Board has developed and adopted a policy that supports a tiered approach to security and hopes to prevent other products from being added to the current licensing regime. [More...](#)

Fertcare Promotional Material Available

Promotion of the Fertcare program is in full swing and you can do your part. A range of promotional material and assistance is available now. [More...](#)

Fertcare Training Developments

The Level A training material has now been fully upgraded to national competency standards. Training and assessment tools have been developed to assist trainers in providing consistent high quality training. [More...](#)

WA Algal Management Strategy & Great Barrier Reef Water Quality

Nutrients and fertilizers are very much under the spotlight in Western Australia and Queensland. The potential implications for the industry are significant and FIFA is actively engaged on behalf of the industry. [More...](#)

Fertilizer Industry Environmental Reporting

Following the successful completion of our obligations to produce three annual public environment reports under an Eco-Efficiency agreement with the Australian Government, the FIFA Board has agreed to continue the process for at least two more years. [More...](#)

Industry Environmental Awards

The fertilizer industry environmental awards are a prestigious recognition of excellence that include a magnificent framed print as a perpetual trophy. You can nominate for the 2005 awards now. [More...](#)

Fertilizer Industry Conference 2007 - Fertilizer Contaminants Study - FIFA at the OECD

Brief summaries of these three items, and some important dates for your diary. [More...](#)

The Fertilizer

News and information from the Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia



FIFA Strategy Update

Following consultation with all members, the FIFA strategy was revised to reflect progress on many issues, to raise the importance of communication within the industry and to other stakeholders and to deal more effectively with the issue of security. Member views were summarised and discussed at the AGM in September and the revised strategy adopted by the FIFA Board at its December meeting.

A summary of the strategy is presented below and the full document can be accessed from the FIFA web site. See the security article in this newsletter for more detail on FIFA's revised security policy.

Platform	Priority	Outcome
Environment and food safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Fertcare product stewardship program to ensure that industry staff can meet their responsibilities regarding food safety and the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain an effective position in the public debate on environmental issues and regulation relating to the fertilizer industry by demonstrating the industry's responsibility and commitment.
Import and logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve quarantine policy and procedures through engagement with government at both the operational and policy level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced risk of contamination and associated costs for imports of fertilizers and raw materials.
Regulatory affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform State legislation controlling the sale, description and labelling of fertilizers. Contribute to the development of good public policy to manage impurities in fertilizer products. Contribute to the development of good public policy to manage security risks of fertilizer products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uniform legislation across all jurisdictions with fertilizer broadly defined to cover all products sold as plant nutrients or soil amendments. Provision of consistent and appropriate information to consumers. Effective management of food safety issues. Efficient and effective management of security issues.
Communication and FIFA Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key stakeholders, including members and Government are engaged in continuing communication relating to the activities of the Association. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The value of FIFA to the industry and to key stakeholders, including Government, is well understood. Key stakeholders have direct input into the development and implementation of the Association's strategy.

Suggestions to improve the FIFA strategy are always welcome and it is formally reviewed by the FIFA Board each year.

[Back to story list](#)

The Fertilizer

News and information from the Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia



FIFA Security Policy

The use of a range of products, some of which are fertilizers, to manufacture explosive devices has resulted in the National and State Governments working together to evaluate the risks involved and develop control strategies that will reduce the likelihood of misuse and make detection of perpetrators more likely.

Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate (SSAN) was regulated first as a matter of priority following two incidents in Australia where ammonium nitrate bombs were detonated by a documentary team in Tasmania and by an “experimenter” in Western Sydney. Current studies by the Council of Australian Governments are evaluating the risks and possible controls for a range of explosive pre-cursors, chemical, biological and radiological threats. A number of fertilizer products not currently covered by the SSAN definition are included in these studies.

FIFA members have made a strong commitment to security with the implementation of a Security Code of Practice adopted by the FIFA Board on 4-12-2003. In anticipation of further regulatory pressure the Board has adopted a new security policy to guide our involvement in the development of public policy regarding security.

FIFA Policy

FIFA will make a strong case for involvement in the security of fertilizer products at the State and Federal level. FIFA's position will be that we can offer assistance in the design and implementation of control systems that will be both efficient and effective and that we could consider co-regulatory options to assure compliance.

FIFA supports:

- No further fertilizers added to the licensing regime introduced to cover SSAN.
- Uniformity and cross recognition between jurisdictions at the lowest possible cost.
- Maintenance of a tiered approach to security so that the most stringent controls are only applied to the products representing the highest risk, with lesser controls applied to other products of concern.

FIFA will offer to assist in efficient and effective implementation of the agreed levels of control including the implementation of voluntary industry measures if these are appropriate.

Next Steps

Once the four studies into explosive pre-cursors, chemical, radiological and biological threats have been accepted by the Federal and State Governments, affected industries will be consulted on possible control measures. FIFA will be consulted on the treatment of the fertilizer products of concern.

Information on the current or planned regulations can be found on the web sites of the responsible agency in each State and links to those sites are available from the [FIFA web site](#).

[Back to story list](#)

The Fertilizer

News and information from the Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia



F I F A

Fertcare Promotional Material Available

The promotion of Fertcare as a guarantee of best practice fertilizer supply, advice and use is well underway. FIFA staff have been active in communicating the merits of Fertcare to government, catchment management, industry, environment and farmer organizations across Australia.



FIFA members also have a lot to gain by assisting in the promotion of Fertcare to their stakeholders, particularly farmers. As part of everyday liaison, or through displays at field days and conferences, members can promote the benefits of dealing with Fertcare accredited businesses.

Fully accredited businesses are licensed to use the program logos in their business promotion.

The picture shows Paul and Brett from Fertspread who have used the logos on their spreading trucks, staff uniforms and caps.



To assist members to promote the program, a suite of communication materials is being developed. At present, display banners, information brochures and media release templates are all freely available for members use.

The picture shows the AFSA National President Shane Dellavedova standing between the display banners at the official launch of Fertcare Accreditation. The banners are aimed at the farmer audience. If you are attending a field day or seminar, they can be booked by contacting FIFA on 02 6230 6987. There are only two sets available so plan ahead and book early.

A brochure is available that discussed the benefits of the program from a farmers perspective as well as one that describes the program to those in the industry. FIFA will print as many of these brochures as required so if you would like some to use in your business give us a call.

Back to story list

The Fertilizer

News and information from the Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia



Fertcare Training Developments

Fertcare Level A

Thanks to the support of the Australian Government National Landcare Program, the new Level A training and accreditation material has been pilot-tested with more than 50 industry personnel. Level A trainer Catherine Lescun has recently delivered the four units of Basic Product Knowledge, Spreading, Transport and Storage & Handling to workshops in Shepparton, Gippsland and Hamilton in Victoria, and in Launceston in Tasmania.

The feedback on the workshops has mostly been very positive and a phone survey of participants currently underway will guide any modification required.

In early 2006, FIFA will work with the Aerial Agriculture Association of Australia to develop a Level A unit for aerial fertilizer spreaders. In addition to completing the product knowledge unit, aerial applicators will need to complete a unit based around the existing ground spreading unit, but modified to address specific aerial issues.



The Level A unit for spreader drivers continues to be the most sought-after module

To date over 850 people have been trained at level A, B and C and we are expecting significant numbers to complete training over the next year. Information about the courses, proposed dates and contact details for the trainers are all available at www.fertcare.com.au.

[Back to story list](#)

The Fertilizer

News and information from the Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia



WA Algal Management Strategy



*FIFA Environment
Manager, Martin
Shafron*

The Western Australian Government is currently exploring options for reducing the occurrence of algal blooms in WA waterways and wetlands. The strategy has 7 areas of activity, including one aimed at reducing the delivery of nutrients from catchments. In this regard, WA officials have advised that there will be a particular focus on the management of fertilizers – particularly those containing phosphorus.

The WA Government has involved the fertilizer industry in discussions on fertilizer management and FIFA is preparing a written submission to the WA Minister for the Environment. The focus of the FIFA submission will be on the role that Fertcare can play in best practice fertilizer use, particularly in assisting farmers with their fertilizer decisions. It will also outline some of the best-practice tools being promoted by FIFA members, including soil testing and satellite mapping. The viability of alternative P products will also be covered.

A copy of the submission will be sent to all members prior to its lodgement with the WA Government.

Great Barrier Reef Water Quality

FIFA has also been actively involved in the implementation, reporting and review of the Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Protection Plan. Under the plan, the industry has committed to providing information on fertilizers sales and use in the catchments of the GBR. FIFA has also maintained a focus on promoting and delivering Fertcare training and accreditation in the GBR catchments. As such, Fertcare received significant prominence in the official 2005 GBRWQPP Annual Report.

On 7 December 2005, FIFA attended a meeting of industry and government representatives to discuss the management of 'nutrient sensitive zones'. It is proposed that these zones receive priority attention in the management of nutrient losses, and fertilizer management is receiving particular attention.

The December meeting reviewed a draft proposal for nutrient management, prepared by Queensland government officers. The proposal suggested a strong role for FIFA members and Fertcare, including:

- o The use of the industry's Cracking the Nutrient Code to guide nutrient planning at the farm scale
- o Further priority Level C training in GBR catchments
- o Assistance by Level C agronomists in nutrient planning
- o Developing 'eco-friendly' fertilizers.

The draft proposal is still under review and while FIFA has supported the promotion of nutrient planning for farmers, it has warned that the resource implications of other proposals would need to be considered. We have also suggested that so-called 'eco-friendly' fertilizers need much more discussion.

[Back to story list](#)

The Fertilizer

News and information from the Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia



F I F A

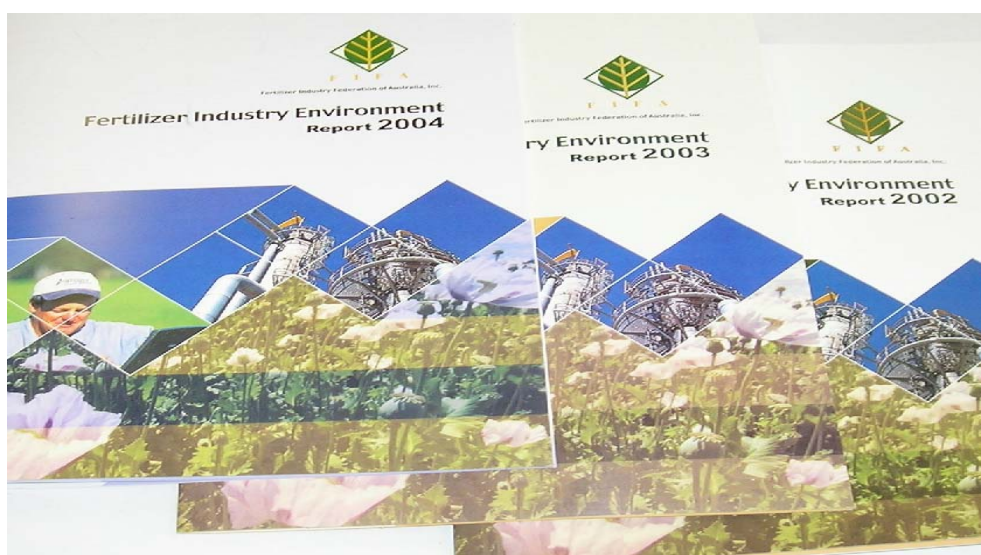
Fertilizer Industry Environmental Reporting

FIFA members will be surveyed in early 2006 to obtain information for the industry's 4th public environment report. The first three environment reports (pictured below) were prepared under the obligations of the eco-efficiency agreement FIFA had with the Australian Government Department of the Environment & Heritage. Despite having fulfilled our obligations with DEH, the Board has agreed to prepare at least another two reports, based on the 2005 and 2006 calendar years.

The previous reports are all available from the [FIFA website](#), and have proven to be a useful communication tool for the industry. Copies of the report are sent to relevant state and federal government agencies, and include lots of useful information about the industry, including its environmental performance.

Feedback on the eco-efficiency survey is required by the end of February 2006, to allow the report to be prepared in a timely manner. If this deadline will cause you problems, please get in touch with Martin Shafron at the FIFA office and see about alternative arrangements.

As for previous years, members will be asked to provide articles on particular programs or products that aim to improve the efficiency of fertilizer production, supply and use. These articles will feature as case studies in the environment reports and provide explicit examples of the industry's commitment to eco-efficiency. Please refer to previous reports for the types or stories we'd like to include. The environment reports are available from the FIFA website, in the publications section.



FIFA's first three public environment reports.

[Back to story list](#)

The Fertilizer

News and information from the Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia



Industry Environmental Awards

Invitations to apply for the 2005 Industry Environmental Awards will be sent out in early 2006. These prestigious awards aim to publicly acknowledge company and individual efforts on improving environmental outcomes, and achieving a positive industry profile.

Submissions will be sought in the four categories:

1. Platypus – for FIFA Ordinary members with an annual turnover of more than \$150m
2. Eucalyptus – for FIFA Ordinary members with an annual turnover of less than \$150m
3. Kookaburra – for FIFA Associate and AFSA ordinary members
4. Snapper – for all staff from FIFA and AFSA member companies.

The FIFA environment awards have been presented for two years now and have provided an opportunity to present a positive profile for the industry. The award ceremonies for both the 2003 and 2004 awards involved senior Australian Government officials, who have all spoken highly of the award system. We will be looking for a similar arrangement for the 2005 awards.

The media response to the awards has also been very positive. Following the 2004 presentations at the FIFA AGM in Canberra, articles and photographs were included in a range of newspapers and industry publications. The awards provide an excellent opportunity to promote your business, on a local or national scale. Of course, the excellent trophies provide a striking adornment to any office foyer!



David Ford proudly accepts the 2004 Eucalyptus Award on behalf of Impact Fertilisers.

[Back to story list](#)

The Fertilizer

News and information from the Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia



Fertilizer Industry Conference 2007

Following the very successful international conference in 2004, the Australian Fertilizer Industry is now planning a 2007 event. Themes of the conference will be Environmental, Food Safety, Quarantine and Security issues from the perspective of the fertilizer industry. There will also be sessions on international and domestic markets and shipping and logistics.

Developments in the AQIS import protocols, the results of the second phase of a study into impurities in fertilizers (see below), and significant progress with the implementation of the Fertcare program are all likely to be of direct relevance to all Australian fertilizer businesses and their overseas supply chain partners.

The precise dates and venue are yet to be decided but mark your diary now for the week of the 6th to the 10th of August 2007.

Fertilizer Contaminants Study Moves to Phase 2

Australian Governments, through the Fertilizer Working Group, are investigating fertilizer products and ingredients to assess the need to prohibit some substances and to set maximum permissible standards for a range of impurities. Phase 1 of the project, conducted by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has been completed. It sets out the scope of the issue and recommends an approach that should be taken to assess hazard and risk for a range of potential impurities.

FIFA is directly involved, both as a member of the Fertilizer Working Group and through the involvement of several member companies in the workshops to develop the Phase 1 report. FIFA members and their supply partners are likely to be involved in providing information for the Phase 2 study.

The Phase 1 report is available from the [CSIRO Land and Water web site](#)

FIFA at the OECD



Nick Drew

The FIFA Executive Manager, Nick Drew, attended the OECD workshop on water and agriculture held in Adelaide and the Riverland on November 14-18 on behalf of the International Fertilizer Association (IFA). Nick presented a paper titled "Fertcare® A model for industry engagement in public policy".

The paper was well received and raised considerable interest amongst the participants. The recommendations from the workshop included that policy makers in OECD member countries should consider raising the capacity for stakeholders (farmers, industry and community groups) in designing and delivering policy responses for integrated water management.

The full paper can be downloaded from the publications section of the [FIFA Web Site](#)

[Back to story list](#)