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1. **Lobbying of Environment Australia** - A CORE delegation held meetings in Canberra with a number of key personnel from Environment Australia (EA) to push for improved support for the Organics Recycling Sector. A presentation was given to the Assistant Director of Environment Industries Focus Unit, Sustainable Industries Branch, who is one of our long-term contacts. The meetings and presentations, which established CORE's credentials, are a first step in a continuing campaign to lobby EA and open channels to gain support for CORE's industry initiatives. A meeting and presentation was also conducted with the Senior Policy and Project Officer for the Sustainable Industries Branch and other Branch officers.
 2. **CORE prepares Federal Minister meeting** - Additionally, following meetings with Joe Hockey, MP, a meeting is being arranged for CORE to make representations directly to the Federal Ministers for Agriculture and Environment.
 3. **Lobbying of NSW EPA on Resource NSW** - CORE has made representations to Mr Graeme Head, Assistant Director General of the NSW EPA, to ensure that the RO industry's substantial contributions to market expansion are recognised in the new waste organisation – Resource NSW. The meeting was very positive and resulted in an undertaking to consider industry's views on the types of programs that will lead to an increase in market demand in addition to advice currently being sought from waste boards. CORE offered to collaborate to ensure the transition to the new structure does not stagnate progress but continues and enhances the momentum begun by waste boards. Graeme has offered to brief senior

management from CORE's processor and manufacturer members on the changes to legislation and the role of Resource NSW. Notice of this meeting will be issued shortly.

4. **CORE presents to NetWaste** - A presentation of CORE's initiatives was recently given to NetWaste representing Councils from western NSW including Bathurst, Orange and Blayney. The region offers excellent potential opportunities to provide products containing recycled organic materials, particularly with its strong agricultural presence. This is the first stage in getting closer to the region to enable us to more effectively push CORE members interests.
5. **CORE continues work in the Hunter Valley, NSW** - CORE recently attended a viticulture seminar organised by the Hunter Valley Vineyards Association (HVVA) in conjunction with NSW Agriculture. There were around one hundred and fifty viticulturists present. The theme of the seminar was balancing yields and quality which in the past been considered mutually exclusive. The seminar included case studies on three Riverina vineyards showing varying results in achieving quality and yield. CORE has requested soil samples to carry out some analysis to try and determine whether any soil characteristics, particularly organic matter content, could be the reason for the variance. The seminar also saw an excellent presentation from NSW Agriculture on the complete eradication of phylloxera through composting. Other presentations included results of the NHT (Natural Heritage Trust) project using recycled organics.

Unfortunately, the presentation placed emphasis on the Sydney basin's waste problem and how viticulture was seen as a good place for it to go. The NHT trial used RO material from a Council depot and did not achieve any significant positive results. While the presentation may have been factual, in our opinion the basic premise of just using shredded vegetation is unsound. The presentation itself also lacked insight into the marketing sensitivities apparent in this market, such as markets not wanting Sydney's waste. Consequently there was a negative response from the attendees, which may affect the success of imminent marketing programs. This situation highlights the need for industry's direct involvement in research design to ensure commercial outcomes are properly considered. Currently these research programs seem to be carried out in isolation from the RO sector creating high-risk situations such as this. The marketing strategy that CORE is currently promoting identifies the need for tailored products for viticulture that are designed to achieve particular yield and quality outcomes. CORE is currently discussing a collaboration agreement with the HVVA. The intent of this agreement is to assist in penetrating this market for our members by exploring ways of providing value to viticulture through the use of tailored products containing recycled organics that meet the needs and requirements of the viticulture sector.

6. **CORE progresses with the development and introduction of an electronic purchasing system for the public sector** - Known as the CROPS system, it allows purchasers to choose products containing recycled organics from contract selected suppliers via the Internet. The E-Commerce system has been developed over the past three years and has generated much interest from parks and gardens supervisors and purchasing staff.
7. **Steering committee establishment** - CORE has established a steering committee to guide its future direction and policies. The committee is made up of a cross section of the organics recycling industry and key end market representatives.
8. **A Word on Waste Boards** - The recent announcement that legislation is to be introduced to NSW Parliament to abolish the Waste Boards has generated much discussion. While the media has focussed on criticism levelled at the Boards we would like to focus on some of the achievements by the Waste Boards of NSW in organics recycling.
 - i) The Boards established the Recycled Organics Unit at the University of NSW that has developed an astonishing range of tools to assist the organics processing industry including an RO Library, Establishing a Compost Facility Manual and a five year strategic plan. There are a total of eight handbooks being produced to assist industry.
 - ii) The Boards developed and implemented discrete programs for the public and private sectors to encourage greater usage of products containing recycled organics and minimisation tactics. The Healthy Gardens program has trained staff in no less than sixty garden centres and nurseries throughout the GSR and been presented to thousands of gardening customers in these centres. The Healthy Parks program has trained public sector staff such as Parks Supervisors from Newcastle to Nowra on the principles of organics avoidance, on-site processing and utilisation of products containing recycled organics. The initial region to do the program, Northern Sydney, has been audited and a three hundred per cent increase in usage of recycled organics reported.
 - iii) The Boards produced a market study update to further identify trends in RO usage and assess future potential. A number of trends identified in the study, including the emergence of storm water purification as a strong potential market, are beginning to be realised.
 - iv) The Boards developed a strategy to increase demand in three specific markets, a strategy of which there does not appear to be any equivalent in the world in detail and direction.

- v) The Boards have funded research and development with a focus on demand acceleration outcomes. The research and development was not only limited to relevant field trials but also in supporting programs such as the introduction of the CROPS purchasing initiative developed by CORE.

These and numerous other initiatives have left a legacy that the new entity Resource NSW can embrace and ensure that the vision developed by the Boards can materialise. We thank the Boards for their enterprise and gumption and welcome the opportunity to work closely with Resource NSW.