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1. **CORE Delegation meets NSW Agriculture, Director General** - A CORE delegation held a meeting with the Director General of NSW Agriculture, Kevin Sherridan, in February to introduce CORE and familiarise the Director General with strategies for increasing the usage of recycled organics (RO) in agriculture. The meeting was successful and a follow-up meeting was arranged with the person deemed the "key" contact within the department to whom CORE can maintain dialogue – The Head of Research and Training.

A subsequent meeting was held with NSW Agriculture's nominated contact where the CORE delegation introduced CORE and its role in market acceleration of RO in agriculture. A number of outcomes from the meeting included:

- developing closer ties to NSW Agriculture's Centre for Organic Farming;
- making targeted presentations at upcoming NSW Agriculture Events; and
- providing input into strategic sustainable initiatives being carried out by NSW Agriculture.

2. **CORE presents to Sydney Fresh Food Bowl** - A presentation was given to the Sydney Fresh Food Bowl (SFFB) Network that includes many public and private sector members on the strategic direction in which CORE seeks to push RO. Members include NSW Agriculture, Department of Planning, Department of Health and many end user agriculture markets. CORE has since joined the SFFB Network in order to maintain RO on the agenda and augment strategic initiatives.

3. **CORE seeks whole of Government approach on recycled organics** - A CORE delegation met with the Director General of the Premiers Department in March to introduce CORE and discuss ways in which a whole of Government approach can be developed for implementing the RO marketing strategy. An invitation was made to initiate this action by presenting the strategy to all relevant NSW department heads in the near future. Many programs within the strategy have cross-departmental benefits.
4. **CORE set to feature regularly in Waste Management & Environment (WM&E) magazine** - An arrangement has also been reached to publish the non-confidential newsletter in future editions of the magazine. A copy of WM&E featuring CORE will be posted to you with our compliments.
5. **Market Info-Line Launch** - CORE has launched an organics market information hotline for the latest trends and market information. Available to members, educational institutions, associations and the Government the CORE Info-line can be reached on 1300 88 55 66. Staffed by qualified marketers and horticulturists, the CORE Info-Line aims to provide up to date information on market trends, emerging markets, stock movements and other essential information about organics.
6. **Organics product manufacturers report mixed sales over Spring/Summer** - A survey of RO manufacturers has indicated mixed sales of products containing RO during the Spring and Summer. Industry expected a decline in sales during Spring due to the Olympic Games. However, most manufacturers reported good sales over this period except sales to the public sector.  
  
Sales leading up to Christmas and into the New Year have slowed for bulk products although sales of bagged products remains steady.
7. **CROPS success** - CORE's CROPS (Centralised Recycled Organic Purchasing System) is in the first stages of implementation in the Northern Sydney Council region involving eleven Councils. Funded by CORE in conjunction with the Northern Sydney Waste Board, the system is the first of it's kind and offers CORE member manufacturers the opportunity to enter into long-term supply contracts on a regional level.
8. **CORE's collaboration program in viticulture continues successfully** - Leading vineyards in the Hunter Valley have joined the collaboration program with RO manufacturers to close the loop on winemaking residues and products containing RO for use in grape growing. Specific tactics for the viticulture market penetration strategy will be the focus of a dedicated meeting of the Collaborators Club in the very near future – watch this space.