



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **ORGANICS RECYCLING TO UNDERPIN AUSTRALIA'S CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITMENTS FROM COP21**

The Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA) welcomes Australia's involvement and leadership in the current United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris which is due to wrap up at the end of this week.

With a final and part binding agreement yet to be reached, AORA sees organics recycling playing a major role in achieving the challenging target levels, financing and collective pledge to the international community.

"We have seen many positive outcomes in Paris and it is very pleasing to see the Commonwealth Government formerly recognise the immense value of healthy soils in achieving global emissions reductions as well as increasing food production, it's a true win win." Said Paul Coffey, Chairman of AORA.

Healthy soils can play a major role in achieving our emissions targets through sequestering carbon within the soils and the vegetation growing within it. In addition, effective soil and sustainable land management techniques are proven to significantly reduce infrared surface radiation which further reduces global warming affects.

"It might seem unusual that the organic recycling industry can play such an integral role in helping to achieve our climate change commitments as well as assisting in the financing of climate change reduction projects in developing countries. However our industry has the knowhow and the ideas on how to help developing countries reach their targets through simple and practical organics recovery projects." Said Peter McLean, Executive Officer at AORA.

AORA believe they can assist in and facilitate this process to ensure the Commonwealth Government can meet their international obligations, especially when it comes to financing developing nations, these ideas and points include:

- AORA and its members can export knowledge and experience of how to implement similar organics recovery techniques in Asia and the Pacific Islands. This can satisfy some of Australia's financial commitment to assisting developing nations.
- Developing effective policies to support wide spread take up and processing of organic resources, this includes amending national legislation to protect and conserve the country's soil resources which could be done under the existing Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation ACT 1999 which deals with matters of national environmental significance.
- Develop effective policies which result in minimised organic resource contamination and maximise diversion from landfill to maximise our organic material back to beneficial land reuse in agricultural production.
- Continue to work with the federal government and other related industries on carbon sequestration methodologies as has been occurring for almost 2 years.

The Commonwealth Government should also be commended on its commitment to doubling the emissions reduction research and development fund. AORA will continue to work with the Government on existing strategies as well as assisting it to deliver on its commitments resultant from COP21.

The organics recycling industry, which AORA represents, employs thousands of people, turns over more than \$1 billion annually and has capital investments of over \$2 billion. This results in over 6 million tonnes of organic material being recovery annually, a figure which grows every year. Instead of ending up in landfill, this resource is now being used to benefit agriculture, our gardens, sporting fields and land rehabilitation.

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For media comment, please phone the AORA Chairman, Paul Coffey on 02 4572 2011 or the AORA Executive Officer, Peter McLean on 0416 227 158

**Note to Editor:**

The Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA) was established in 2012 and works on behalf of its members including processors, associate industries, educators and all levels of Government to raise awareness of the benefits of recycling organic resources. It aims to act as an advocate for the wider organics resource recovery and beneficial reuse industries and to represent their views in a constructive dialogue with policy makers. AORA envisages an industry in which best practice is shared, standards are maintained and surpassed, and which makes a positive contribution to safeguarding the environment. To become a member or to learn more, please visit [www.aora.org.au](http://www.aora.org.au) To learn more about the benefits of organics recycling, please visit [www.compostforsoils.com.au](http://www.compostforsoils.com.au)