
Fertilizer, Food Safety and the Environment

An Australian Perspective

Nick Drew

Executive Manager

Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia



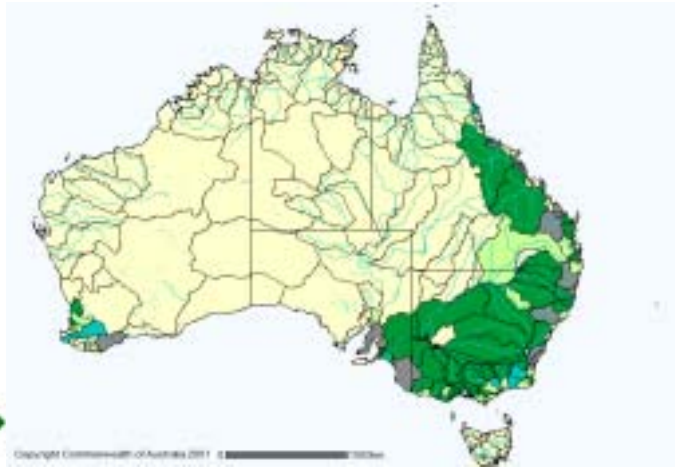
Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia

Public Concern – Heavy Metals



Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia

Public Concern - Water Quality



Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia

Public Concern - Water Quality

- Catchments of the Great Barrier Reef:
 - Phosphorus loads increased between 3 and 15 times.
 - Total nitrogen loads increased between 2 and 4 times.
- Groundwater contamination



Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia

Public Concern - Greenhouse

- Australian agriculture produces 18.4% of total net emissions.
- Animals directly produce 11.5%
- Soils, including contributions of N fertilizers contribute 3.2%?



Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia

FIFA Response – Heavy Metals

- 1991-1994 with HRDC, supported a CSIRO study into effect of fertilizers on cadmium in vegetables.
- 1999-2004 support the National Cadmium Minimisation Strategy.
- Reduce average Cd concentration in fertilizers.
- Produce low Cd superphosphate for at risk uses.



Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia

FIFA Outcomes – Heavy Metals

- Significant reduction in average Cd concentration in applied fertilizers.
- Co-ordinated strategy to manage those industries at risk.
- Strong profile for FIFA as a responsible, effective industry body.
- Involvement in public policy development.



Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia

FIFA Response – Water Quality

- Broaden FIFA membership to include the sales channel.
- Develop an environmental product stewardship strategy.
- Engage with public policy influencers.
- Engage with public policy makers.



Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia

FIFA Response – Water Quality

- Development of an Eco-Efficiency agreement with the Federal Government.
- Development of an industry-wide environmental product stewardship training program.
 - For sales staff
 - For advisers
 - For farmers



Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia

FIFA Outcomes – Water Quality

- Significant public funding.
- Opportunities to work closely with our farmer customers.
- Strong profile for FIFA as a responsible, effective industry body.
- Involvement in public policy development.



Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia

FIFA Response - Greenhouse

- Support development of better understanding – CRC for Greenhouse Accounting.
- Incorporate best available advice into product stewardship initiatives.



Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia

FIFA Outcomes – Greenhouse

- Early involvement as a responsible party.
- Strong profile for FIFA as a responsible, effective industry body.
- Involvement in public policy development.



Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia

Public Concern – FIFA Principles

- Early involvement and ownership.
- Support credible third parties in developing good information.
- Develop responsible industry policy.
- Engage positively in the public debate.
- Engage effectively in public policy development.



Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia

Policy Outcomes – FIFA Position

- There is often a sound basis for public concerns.
- The most robust solution is to genuinely address those concerns.
- Involvement in the development of effective solutions is more important than the tools used.



Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia