

ANZBIG Newsletter

Global leaders in the sustainable production and use of biochar

CEO MESSAGE

Dear Members, Partners, and Friends,

After thoughtful consideration, I have decided to step down as CEO of ANZBIG, with my contract concluding on 30 September 2025, I believe it is a good time to move onto other pursuits within the industry. However I aim to assist ANZBIG's leadership handover and future planning.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all of those I have worked with since 2020 supporting ANZBIG to become a recognised voice for the biochar and circular carbon industry across Australia and New Zealand.

Along with a strong Executive Board, Advisory Board and our growing membership, we have:

- Raised awareness of biochar's potential across agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and carbon removal.
- Brought together an extraordinary network of innovators, researchers, producers, and policymakers.
- Positioned ANZBIG at the heart of conversations shaping Australia's transition to low-carbon solutions and the circular economy.

It's been an honour and a privilege to contribute to this momentum and to work alongside such a passionate and pioneering community.

As ANZBIG prepares for its next phase of growth, I believe this is the right moment to hand over the reins, making space for new leadership and fresh resources to take the organisation even further.

While I'm stepping back from the role, my commitment to the industry remains steadfast, and I look forward to continued involvement in the biochar industry collaborating in new ways as this sector expands and matures.

Thank you all for your support, your trust, and your belief in the transformative potential of biochar, renewable energy and fuels and carbon removal. Together, we've laid the foundation for something truly impactful, and the best chapters for ANZBIG are yet to come.

With deep appreciation,

Chars



In This Issue

Latest Podcast:

Sports Turf & Biochar

Recycling Human Waste In Biochar to Diminish Fertilizer Shortage

Biochar's secret power could change clean water forever

Coconut producers support higher biodiesel blend in the Philippines

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

ANZBIG at Waste Expo 29 - 30 October

w: www.anzbig.org
a. C/Catalyst Environmental Management
Unit 10, Level 2, 344 Hunter St,
Newcastle West, N.S.W.
2302

Member Spotlight

*Welcome New &
Renewing Members*

Graphene



Amorphous

[Riverina Char](#)

Carbon

[Carbon
Technologies
Australia](#)

Associate

[Scott Lusted](#)

**Become an
ANZBIG Member**

[Join Now](#)



RAPIDMAP
Geospatial Data & Technologies

Have you ever wanted to showcase your Biochar projects in a clear, engaging way? Mapping is the fastest way to explain complex data, whether identifying stockfeed sites or monitoring solution deployments.

For over 34 years, RapidMap has delivered integrated GPS GNSS mapping solutions, combining high-accuracy positioning, mobile GIS, and spatial data management. We help land managers, agriculture, forestry, and asset managers capture accurate data with full audit trails for reliable decision-making.

Our 4D Global division are international leaders in GNSS, enabling customers to map and record data in any environment. RapidMap Services applies these technologies to assets such as drainage, utilities, and open spaces, supporting government and community engagement.

The Iconyx software platform streamlines soil sampling, vegetation metrics, and environmental indicators directly into enterprise GIS or digital twins, with real-time dashboards for evidence-based insights.

RapidMap is your technology partner—let's accelerate Biochar solutions for a sustainable future.

[Click here to schedule a meeting with us.](#)



**Summit Spatial SaaS for Biochar
deployments, Soil Health & Research**



MAP Geospatial Data Rapidly & Accurately in the field to capture images & evidence to monitor results over time at each site



COLLABORATE & COORDINATE with Multiple Concurrent Stakeholders, Research Partners, Stakeholders & Agencies



INTEGRATE & REPORT Share your Single Source of Field Data Truth in Seconds



INCREASE Field & Office Efficiency, Product Knowledge, Data Collection, Use for Grant Applications & Compliance to Save Time!



ANZBIG News & Events

Latest Podcast: Sports Turf with Biochar

On the Ground Podcast – Episode 2: Sports Turf with Biochar How can biochar transform sports turf management into a profitable, sustainable practice? In this episode, we sit down with James Gaspard, CEO of Biochar Now (USA), to unpack a groundbreaking California golf course case study. After investing ~\$300,000 AUD in biochar, the course achieved nearly \$3 million in water savings over six years — delivering a return on investment in just six months.

We cover:

- How biochar improves turf resilience, aesthetics, and soil health
- The measurable ROI of water savings and reduced inputs
- What makes turf an emerging, lucrative market for biochar worldwide
- Practical lessons for golf courses, sports fields, and turf managers in Australia & New Zealand

Watch on [Youtube](#) or Listen on [Spotify](#)



Support and Sponsorship

ANZBIG will be closing out the 2025 Calendar Year via support and sponsorship of two major events. We will be on the programme and exhibiting at both these events. They are;

Waste Expo - October 30-31

Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

The 2025 National Carbon Farming Conference & Expo

Presentation to be announced and see us at our Exhibition Stall



Panel Discussion: Enabling a Regulatory Framework for Biochar in a Circular Economy World

Thursday, 30th Oct 12:40 - 13:25 Waste Summit Theatre 2

This panel will explore the development of a regulatory framework for biochar within a circular economy context. Panelists will discuss policy, standards, and market innovation—highlighting how biochar enables both carbon removal and resource recovery. Case studies and perspectives from industry, infrastructure, an...

Shaun Scallan, Operations Director, Victorian Bioenergy Network

Nigel Murphy, Director, Senior Principal Environmental Scientist, Earth Systems

Alex Lee, Technical Manager, Kyreos Group

Dr Mayuri Wijayawardana, CEO, Anivarta Pty Ltd

ANZBIG Leadership

Phillip Henshall is acting as interim CEO while the Board searches for a new CEO.

He will be supported by Shaun Scullan who will be looking after communication and marketing.

They will continue ANZBIG's work in implementing the Roadmap and building a bigger Biochar Industry

If you have any queries please contact Phillip or Shaun.

Contact email is execdirect@anzbig.org or shaun@anzbig.org.

Library

Biochar for soil

[Structure-performance relationship of biochar for direct degradation of organic pollutant](#)

[Rice husk-biochar nano-carrier based 2, 4-D herbicide for efficient management of broad leaf weeds and sedges](#)

Biochar for Pyrolysis

[Effects of biochar on the shrinkage and mechanical properties of sustainable engineered geopolymer composites: A comparative study between biochar sources, pyrolysis temperatures, and particle sizes](#)

Biochar for Water Filtration

[Advances in biochar-based absorbents: Sustainable solutions for heavy metal removal from contaminated water](#)

Member Benefits

Did you know? Members have access to a seven-year-old library full of reports and articles, past webinar and conference recordings plus a list of papers by category - learn more about ANZBIG memberships [HERE](#)

Biochar Industry News

Biochar's secret power could change clean water forever



We've all heard the story: biochar cleans water by adsorbing pollutants -- trapping them like a sponge. Or, in fancier setups, it acts as a catalyst to help oxidants like hydrogen peroxide break down toxins. But Dr. Gao's team asked a bold question: What if biochar can degrade pollutants all by itself? Turns out - it can. And it's been doing it quietly all along.

Scientists found that biochar doesn't just capture pollutants, it actively destroys them using direct electron transfer. This newly recognized ability accounts for up to 40% of its cleaning power and remains effective through repeated use. The discovery opens the door to cheaper, greener, and more efficient water treatment methods worldwide.

Recycling Human Waste In Biochar to Diminish Fertilizer Shortage

With farmers across the globe facing growing prices and increasing inaccessibility to fertilizer, labor representatives like the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) have warned their public officials of said resource and distribution complications. Many farmers' economic climate uncertainty is mainly rooted in geopolitical tensions. The availability of components such as phosphorus, potassium and nitrogen has reduced, increasing the price of the internationally manufactured fertilizers that farmers rely on.



Tanks to be demolished at new biochar plant site



Process tanks at a former anaerobic digestion plant in Ludlow will be demolished and removed, a council has said.

Shropshire Council is preparing the Coder Road Business Park site to become a pyrolysis plant which will process biochar, a form of charcoal.

The work is expected to take four to six weeks to complete.

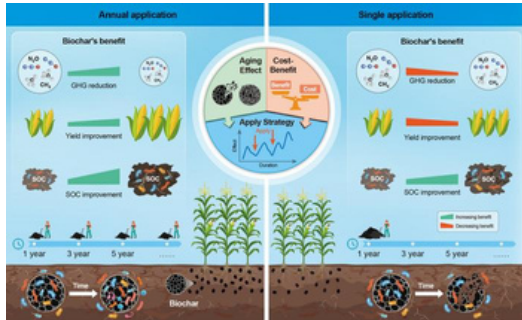
"While work has already begun to decommission the site, this next stage of demolition will involve works, such as breaking up the concrete bases beneath the old tanks, and may therefore cause some additional noise," said councillor Rob Wilson, cabinet member for transport and economic growth.

From Kilns to Kitchens: Unlocking Biochar's Potential in Italy.

In the world of Italian pizza, the choice between Neapolitan, Roman and Sicilian is steeped in tradition and appreciation for the cooking process. Each style has its own unique recipe to create the final product of a culinary delight. The method of crafting biochar, with its different biomass choices and performance characteristics, is surprisingly similar.



Converting Straw to Biochar Could Add 190 Million Tons to Global Grain Production



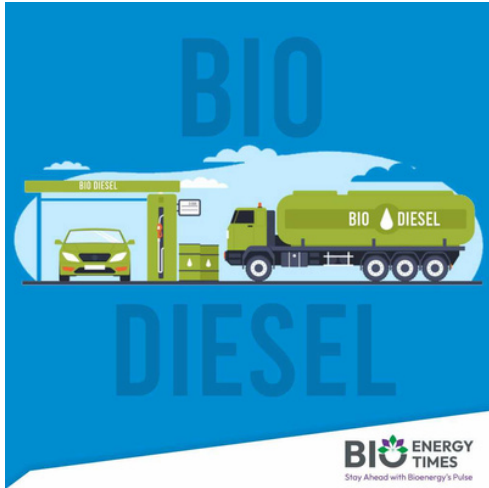
Every growing season, farming generates large amounts of crop residues such as straw, husks, and stalks. These are usually managed through burning, plowing back into fields, feeding to livestock, or composting. However, these practices release greenhouse gases (GHGs) including methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and carbon dioxide (CO_2), contributing to climate change and posing risks to long-term food security.

Considering Low-Carbon Cement Options

The need for concrete at institutional and commercial facilities continues to rise as infrastructure for ever-evolving urbanization expands. Meanwhile, emissions remain a concern worldwide, and cement manufacturing is currently estimated to account for 8 percent of total global carbon emissions. This clash is a major dilemma, as the demand for investments in physical infrastructure could reach \$106 trillion by 2040.



Industry Related News



Coconut producers support higher biodiesel blend in the Philippines

The United Coconut Association of the Philippines (UCAP) has voiced strong support for the government's plan to increase the biodiesel blend in diesel fuel to four percent starting in 2026. The move is expected to boost demand for copra, the dried coconut product used to make coconut oil, from the \$2.6-billion local coconut sector, reports philstar Global.

The government says its 2035 climate targets are achievable but mathematics suggests a different story

The problem with an emissions reduction target, necessary though it is, is that its mere existence implies it is achievable and that if we do achieve it, we will be fine.

New CSIRO modelling suggests Australia's new targets are difficult to achieve, and even if they are, we won't be fine. Australia will not hit the targets of 62-70 per cent reduction by 2035 and net zero by 2050 because the logistics of doing so require new forests the size of half of Victoria to be grown in 10 years, followed by further forests the size of two Tasmanias.



Australian researchers discover two invasive weeds have the potential to be burned as biofuel

Two invasive weed species could contribute to a creative solution to Australia's energy transition – as ingredients for clean, renewable fuel.

Researchers at the University of Queensland found Brazilian nightshade and climbing asparagus – both aggressive vine species – can be converted into biomass pellets.

That June research, highlighted this week by UQ's Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, assessed more than 20 weed species for their potential use as fuel.



2035 Emissions Reduction Targets Report

The Climate Change Authority's 2035 Targets Advice report finds that an emissions reduction target of 62–70% from 2005 levels represents Australia's highest possible ambition taking account of the matters set out under the relevant legislation, is achievable, and is in Australia's national and economic interest.

The Authority is required by law to give independent, expert advice to the Government on the targets Australia should include in its next Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement on climate change.



Australia to launch AU\$1.1 billion investment in low-carbon liquid fuels

The government of Australia on Sept. 17 announced plans to invest AU\$1.1 billion (\$731.84 million) to support the domestic production of drop-in, low-carbon liquid fuels, such as renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

The funding will be offered in the form of competitive grants available through a new 10-year Clean Fuels Program.



Shell and Hapag-Lloyd sign multi-year liquefied biomethane deal



Hapag-Lloyd and Shell Western LNG B.V. have signed a multi-year agreement for the supply of liquefied biomethane starting with immediate effect.

The agreement builds on a strategic collaboration established in 2023 to accelerate the decarbonization of alternative marine fuels.

Industry Events

Biochar Industry Events - Save the date/s!!

IBI Events 

<https://biochar-international.org/events/>

2-10 October, 2025, India

Biochar Academy: India

14 - 15 October 2025- Venice, Italy

9th Biochar School - Biochar Systems

28–30 October, 2025 - Washington, USA

Biochar Study Tour: Washington State

17-20 November, 2025

3rd International Symposium on Sustainable Biochar-SIPS 2025

Industry Related Events

Industry Related Events - 📢 Save the date/s!!

8 - 9 October - Stockholm, Sweden
7th European Conference Biomass PowerON 2025

21-22 October, 2025 - Rotorua, New Zealand
Residues2Revenues 2025

29 - 30 October, 2025 - Melbourne, Australia
Waste Expo Australia

4- 6 November, 2025 - Albury, Australia
National Carbon Farming Conference

11-13 November, 2025 - Brisbane, Australia
TropAg 2025

8 - 13 February, 2026 - Western Australia
World Renewable Energy Congress XXV (WREC2026)

Partnerships



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WSAA

All the latest news from the New Zealand Newsletter
All Black Earth



NSW Decarb Hub

All the latest news from Decarb Hub

International Links



EUROPE

All the latest news from the European Biochar Industry

NEW ZEALAND

All the latest news from the New Zealand Newsletter
All Black Earth



INTERNATIONAL BIOCHAR INITIATIVE

All the latest news from the International Biochar Initiative

US Biochar Initiative

All the latest news from the US Biochar Initiative

