



The Peak Body for the Australian Organic Sector

www.ofa.org.au

From the desk of:

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Reef Plan Opportunity to Partner with Organic Industry

"The announcement by Queensland Premier Anna Bligh to protect the Great Barrier Reef is an opportunity for the farming and research community to work in partnership with the Organic Federation of Australia on ways to adopt commercially proven methods to reduce pesticides and synthetic fertilisers." Andre Leu, Chair of the Organic Federation of Australia stated.

"Organic systems have a proven track record in delivering high water quality to catchments. In Europe several governments pay farmers in key water catchments to adopt organic systems to ensure water quality." Andre stated.

"Organic producers have the knowledge and skills to obtain good yields of quality produce without using chemicals or synthetic fertilisers. Fertiliser and chemicals costs have doubled and tripled in the last year. Investing in organic research will help farmers reduce their inputs and benefit the whole farming industry as these techniques can be adopted without farmers having to be fully organic."

"Research from around the world is showing that best practice organic agriculture can be high yielding especially in climatic extremes such as drought and floods. Applying this research to Australian conditions would bring flow on benefits to the whole of agriculture and the Australian community" Mr Leu stated

"There is the opportunity for high value market drivers to help farmers adopt environmentally proven methods. Australia is currently importing organic sugar from South America at five times the world price. We are also importing organic grains at considerable premiums. Those farmers interested in the complete adoption of organic practices can access these premiums." Tim Marshall, OFA Director and Farm Systems consultant stated.

"As the peak industry body for the Australian organic and biodynamic sector, the Organic Federation of Australia would be pleased to work in partnership with the Federal and State Governments, farming organisations and NRM groups on projects that would help reduce chemicals and maintain the financial viability of farms." Eric Love, Deputy Chair stated.

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The Organic Federation of Australia is the peak body and the largest representative organic organisation in Australia. For further information please visit www.ofa.org.au

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