

## Global winner, Biolytix®, is taking on effluent society

Dean Cameron has collected a Global Award at the World Expo in Japan for his home-grown Biolytix® Wastewater Treatment System. It was the only sewage and greywater recycling system in the world to win.

Cameron's award is given to 'environmental technologies that have the potential to solve global environmental problems.' He has also just won the Queensland Premier's Smart Award for 'The Rising Star' and was a double winner on ABC TV's *The New Inventors*.

His Biolytix® Wastewater Treatment System is now touted as the most greenhouse friendly and compact biological wastewater treatment system available. It efficiently converts raw sewage and wastewater into clean irrigation water, in the process breaking down food scraps and sanitary items.

The compact, chemical free system uses worms and a range of other selected organisms to

convert rough waste into humus. It has the worldwide patent to then use this humus as the filter to cleanse the wastewater. This smartly turns the problem (the waste) into the solution (the filter to cleanse the wastewater).

Twelve years ago, while other researchers were analysing oxygen diffusion in water to solve the challenge of wastewater treatment, Cameron was examining the breakdown of cowpats and dead cows in the paddock, and studying the creatures degrading waste on river edges for his natural process solution.

'We spent \$3 million dollars in research and development to make Australia a leader in water recycling. The Biolytix® technology is a giant leap forward for wastewater recycling in households, housing developments and commercial buildings. It makes recycling water more attractive, easier and



**Inventor, Dean Cameron, in front of the cross-section of the three-stage, compact Biolytix® Waste Treatment System. It outperforms conventional systems many times its size.** Biolytix®

cheaper. Wastewater recycling will now become the norm,' says Cameron.

Biolytix® systems can be networked together for housing developments, in a set-up called Biowater®, which Cameron claims costs half as much as conventional infrastructure, and has the added advantage of recycling water on-site.

New developments, as well as the 450 000 Australian homes that are on Sewerage

Backlog Programs, could benefit from the environment-friendly technology. Most are currently on septic systems that can pollute the environment; studies have shown that 70% of septic tanks fail within five years of installation. The Biolytix® system can also be retrofitted into a (sound) septic tank to provide quality irrigation water.

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## The farmers' tree program that's growing potential

Research suggests that most farmers could plant trees and shrubs on up to 15 per cent of their land helping farm health, agricultural productivity and income. A new three-way partnership will ensure that farmers, researchers, governments, conservation groups and industry work together to get the right trees in the right place.

Landcare Australia and ASX-listed company, Computershare, who already support reforestation through the successful joint eTree initiative, have recently committed backing to the University of Melbourne's Australian Master TreeGrower Program, a training scheme that provides farmers



**Farmer Brian Martin waters eucalyptus saplings on his farm at Wakool, NSW.** CSIRO

with the knowledge and information networks required to ensure reforestation meets their needs and those of the wider community. The funding will widen the current Australian Master TreeGrower Program to farmers in regional Australia.

The Program is the initiative

of Rowan Reid, a forest scientist from the faculty of Land and Food Resources at the University. Mr Reid, a tree grower himself, has been working with farmers for more than 20 years, helping them design and manage multi-purpose forests.

'The impact of the program has been enormous. Those involved are not only growing more trees, they're doing it better, thereby providing greater benefits.'

'It is not enough to plant trees. Forests must be managed and protected,' Mr Reid said.

Computershare's Chief Executive Officer, Chris Morris, sees the sponsorship as a natural fit for Computershare.

'The education courses will build land managers' and farmers' skills in sustainable reforestation and, with focus on the areas supported through the eTree initiative, will further maximise the effectiveness of the growing number of eTree project sites,' he said.

Approximately 150 additional farmers will be involved in the program. Since 1996, with support from the Federal Governments Joint Venture Agroforestry Program, 63 regional Master TreeGrower education programs have been conducted across Australia involving over 1300 landholders.

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