Nursery & Garden Industry Australia Environmental Sustainability Position

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia

Industry Working in Harmony with the Environment for a Sustainable Future

The NGIA Environmental Sustainability Position booklet is printed on paper bearing the following environmental accreditations

A paper mill that has internationally recognised environmental standards and an ongoing committment to the conservation of natural resources. The mill has established an environmental management system (EMS) with standards in excess of legal requirements that operate in tandem with their product quality controls.

Fibre used in the production of this stock is sourced from pulp suppliers who practice responsible forestry techniques and/or use paper from managed plantation forests.

The mill has an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System in use. ISO 14001 specifies requirements for an environmental management system to enable an organization to develop and implement a policy and objectives which take into account legal requirements and other requirements to which the organization subscribes, and information about significant environmental aspects. It applies to those environmental aspects that the organization identifies as those which it can control and those which it can influence. It does not itself state specific environmental performance criteria.

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September 2009


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Foreword

The sustainable development of Australia's Nursery & Garden Industry is a principal concern for the Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA). In recent times, the importance of environmental stewardship has been brought into sharp focus through issues such as the on-going drought, the impacts of climate change and biodiversity decline. These issues have required careful consideration and management by NGIA to ensure sound environmental outcomes are achieved.

This Position Document 'Nursery & Garden Industry Australia Environmental Sustainability Position' provides the public and other key stakeholder groups with a summary of NGIA's views on key environmental issues. This document captures the many environmental achievements of industry and reaffirms that NGIA is committed to achieving on-going improvements in its environmental performance. The publication of this Position Document firmly cements Australia's Nursery & Garden Industry as a true, green industry that has long been concerned about working in harmony with the environment for a sustainable future.

This Position Document has been finalised by Nursery & Garden Industry Australia following feedback from State Nursery & Garden Industry Associations as well as members. Nursery & Garden Industry Australia gratefully acknowledges this assistance.

I highly recommend this Position Document for your reading.

Dr Anthony Kachenko
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Nursery & Garden Industry Australia

16 September 2009

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1 Introduction

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA) is the peak national industry body representing producers, retailers and allied traders involved in the production of plants across all states and territories of Australia. In partnership with state and territory peak bodies, NGIA is responsible for overseeing the national development of the Australian nursery industry.

The nursery and garden industry provides significant economic, cultural, social and environmental benefits to the Australian community. Nationally, the production nurseries support a diverse array of end users, through the provision of green-life as starter crops or finished products. End users include retail outlets, landscapers, cut flower growers, orchardists, vegetable growers, interiorscapers, sustainable forestry and revegetation enterprises. Along the supply chain, allied traders provide products and services that support the production, sale and health of green-life and include growing media and fertiliser manufacturers.

Owing to the diverse nature of nursery production, and its customer base, nurseries typically occur in urban, peri-urban and regional localities across Australia. As such, industry is confronted with a variety of environmental and natural resource impediments that require careful consideration and management to ensure sound environmental outcomes are achieved. Nursery & Garden Industry Australia recognises that maintaining a healthy environment is critical for a viable and thriving industry and is mindful that preserving the environment in a rapidly changing landscape is a necessity that shouldn't be overlooked. Government policy can also impact on the sustainability of industry and therefore it is imperative that industry is prepared for the challenges and opportunities that may arise through this process.

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia has had a long history of embracing change and managing key environmental issues through investment in research, development and extension. The purpose of this Environmental Sustainability Position is to demonstrate that NGIA remains committed to safeguarding the environment and minimising or reducing adverse environmental impacts of its operations. To this end, Industry is committed to working with government, research organisations, the community and other stakeholders to address and manage key environmental issues.

This document covers environmental issues across all sectors of the supply chain from cradle to grave, including issues pertinent to the gardening public and the broader community. By responding to and undertaking activities, in relation to key environmental issues such as climate change and natural resource management, NGIA aims to ensure that these issues are addressed through a triple bottom line approach. This will inevitably result in the sustainable development of the Nursery & Garden Industry (NGI).

> *"Industry is committed to working with government, research organisations, the community and other stakeholders to address and manage key environmental issues…"*

2 Mission statement

Position the NGI as the community's leader on relevant environmental issues.

3 A sustainable future begins here

In response to the issue of sustainability and environmental responsibility, NGIA has developed this Environmental Sustainability Position. This document demonstrates NGIA's commitment to environmental

sustainability, the appropriate management of the association and its operations, the engagement of businesses in principles and applications of sustainability and the engagement of and collaboration with the broader community.

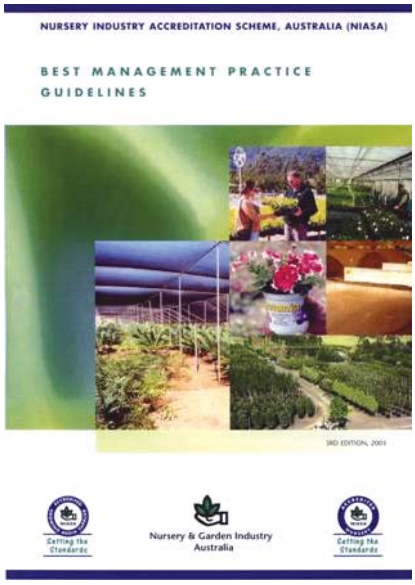
The Industry recognises that long term sustainability of the environment directly affects the long term sustainability of businesses. Nursery & Garden Industry Australia is engaged in helping to build a sustainable future and has developed several initiatives to ensure the use of environmentally sound practices across the full supply chain. These initiatives cover a wide range of environmental issues, framed to *encourage* and not discourage the Industry. Nursery & Garden Industry Australia is committed to promoting and encouraging environmentally sound business practices and is dedicated to assisting industry in working towards this goal.

> *"Nursery & Garden Industry Australia is engaged in helping to build a sustainable future …"*

Industry is committed to maintaining an Environment Committee for implementation of this Environmental Sustainability Position. This national committee will review this document annually and make necessary revisions as/where required. An environmental risk assessment matrix, developed by the Environment Committee, underpins this document. This matrix depicts key environmental issues that have the potential to impact on the sustainability of industry and is reviewed biannually by the Environment Committee.

4 Environmental best practice programs

4.1 *Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia – Best management practices for production/growing media businesses*



Nursery & Garden Industry Australia encourages production nurseries and growing media businesses to gain Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia (NIASA) accreditation and operate in accordance with national Best Management Practices (BMP). These guidelines have been developed over a period of years by respected industry representatives and researchers. They are reviewed annually by the National NIASA Advisory Committee to ensure they cover relevant and current production and environmental issues. This national, audited scheme was developed in 1994 to improve production efficiency, whilst being mindful of the environment. This scheme aims to enhance business professionalism and profitability and encourage continuous improvement in NIASA accredited businesses and those businesses working towards accreditation. It can also be used as a reference guide to assist in the setup and establishment of new production nurseries and growing media businesses. These guidelines detail industry BMP for crop hygiene, crop management practices, water management and general site management.

4.2 *Environmental Management System for production/growing media businesses – EcoHort™*

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia advocates the adoption of EcoHort™ across all NIASA production and growing media businesses. EcoHort™ is an industry specific Environmental Management System (EMS) that provides businesses with a systematic approach to assess their environmental and natural resource management responsibilities, as part of their daily business management. These guidelines provide businesses with the tools to ensure they can demonstrate to industry, government and the community, their sound environmental and natural resource stewardship and compliance with the diverse range of environmental legislation. This national audited EMS offers businesses with a risk assessment-based pathway to continuously improve their management systems. This program addresses the following key areas:

- Efficient irrigation
- Wastewater management
- Nutrient management
- Managing biodiversity
- Efficient energy use
- Waste minimisation
- Land and soil management
- Pest & weed management, and
- Recycling of waste products

4.3 *Environmental best practice for garden centres*

4.3.1 Australian Garden Centre Accreditation Scheme

The Australian Garden Centre Accreditation Scheme (AGCAS) is a national industry managed scheme, designed to raise retail standards, encourage business improvement and promote excellence in garden retailing. Nursery


& Garden Industry Australia encourages engagement in this scheme across all garden centres throughout Australia. Embedded in this scheme are four environmental modules to provide businesses with a high level of environmental awareness. These modules provide industry standard guidelines on water, weeds, chemicals and waste management to ensure businesses reduce their environmental footprint. A key component of this program is to position AGCAS businesses as a trusted and reputable source of information for the general public.

5 Biosecurity and the Nursery and Garden Industry

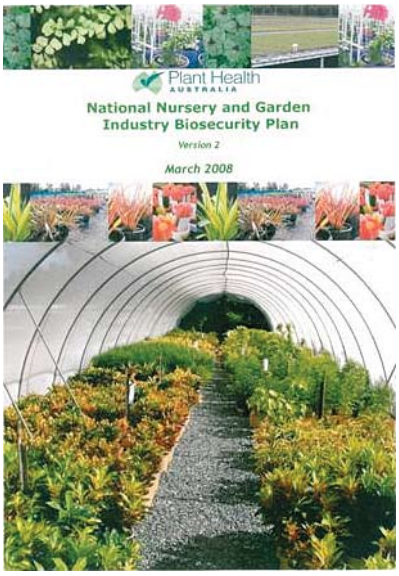
One of the biggest threats to the Australian environment is the introduction of exotic pests. Owing to Australia's geographic isolation, it has remained relatively free from many exotic pests. To ensure Australia remains that way, a robust scientifically sound biosecurity program is required. This program needs to clearly articulate the importance of maintaining Australia's plant health status and explicitly state that biosecurity is a 'whole of community' responsibility, involving State and Federal Governments, industry and the wider public.

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia acknowledges that it plays a vital role in this biosecurity continuum and is therefore actively engaged in several biosecurity initiatives across Australia. Nursery & Garden Industry Australia is also a member of Plant Health Australia (PHA) which further demonstrates its willingness to participate in this arena.

5.1 *National Nursery and Garden Industry Biosecurity Plan*

The National Nursery and Garden Industry Biosecurity Plan was developed in 2005 to provide a blueprint for the exclusion, eradication and control of key pests relevant to the NGI. This plan is a living document and undergoes review by the Industry Biosecurity Group annually to embrace changes to industry biosecurity, the most recent review occurred in 2008. This plan is

vital to ensure industry has the capacity to minimise risks of pests and respond effectively to any pest threats ensuring the future sustainability and viability of the industry. As part of the National Nursery & Garden Biosecurity Plan, NGIA has developed contingency plans for key pests which provide background information on the pest biology and available control measures to assist with preparedness in the event of an incursion. Each contingency plan provides guidelines to assist in developing a Response Plan to this pest incursion.



5.2 *Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed*

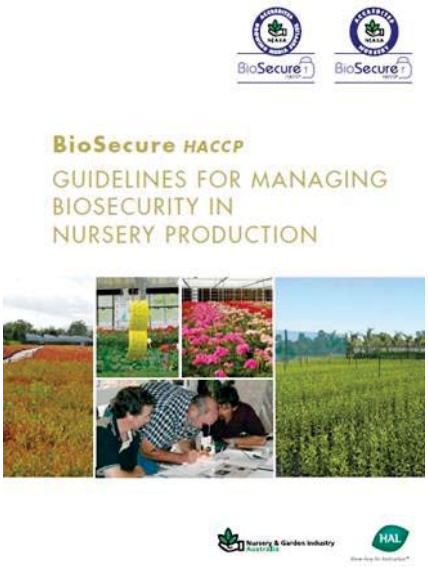
In 2005, NGIA became a signatory to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD). As a signatory to the EPPRD, NGIA is at the forefront of developments in biosecurity. The EPPRD is a progressive partnership arrangement between governments and NGIA that sees Australian industries and Governments cooperating as equal parties in the management of emergency plant pests (EPPs). An EPP can be defined as a:

- Known exotic plant pest
- Variant form of a plant pest already established in Australia
- New serious plant pest
- Plant pest that is being officially controlled in Australia but requiring a significant emergency response to ensure that there is not a large scale epidemic of regional or national significance

As part of this deed, NGIA is directly involved in categorising the EPPs based on their likely environmental, human health, trade, economic and industry impacts. In the event of an incursion, NGIA is also directly involved


in decision making about mounting and managing EPPs relevant to industry.

5.3 *BioSecure HACCP – Guidelines for managing biosecurity in nursery production*



BioSecure *HACCP* is an industry-specific biosecurity program for production nurseries and growing media businesses. This program provides businesses with a systematic approach to assess on-farm biosecurity hazards and responsibilities and it details how to best manage these identified risks. These guidelines have been developed following HACCP, which is the world recognised standard in risk management processes. BioSecure *HACCP* has been developed under the 12 defining principles of HACCP, providing a creditable risk identification and management process for production and growing media businesses.

BioSecure *HACCP* allows businesses to:

- Assess their current and future pest and disease risks
- Guide businesses in the implementation of management strategies at critical control points
- Identify internal and external threats to the integrity of a business biosecurity preparedness
- Guide businesses in the establishment of an effective internal quarantine process for both imported and exported plant material
- Conduct internal audits; self improvement system

6 Climate change and variability

Australian horticultural industries (which include nursery production) fall under the umbrella of Agriculture, which in 2005 was responsible for approximately 16% of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. Of this 16%, Australia's combined horticultural emissions account for approximately 1.2%. Nursery & Garden Industry Australia has the capacity through the production of living products to make a significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and may also play an integral role in mitigating climate change and variability. Historically, the Industry has shown to be resilient and adaptive in response to environmental pressures; no more noticeable than the ongoing drought which continues to impact across large expanses of Australia. In light of this adversity, the NGI has the capacity to cope with climate change and remain viable in a highly variable climate.

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia is developing a carbon foot printing tool to estimate emissions from production nurseries. This tool will provide full lifecycle and cost/benefit analysis to measure the environmental impacts of specific nursery lines from cradle to grave. This model will benchmark the carbon footprint of production nurseries, identify areas of improvement and prioritise potential actions for mitigation through offsets or emission reductions. Emission benchmarking, based on nursery 'best practice' emissions, will be reviewed and updated as technology improves. This foot printing tool will build on from the current HortCarbonInfo Calculator that

"Nursery & Garden Industry Australia has the capacity through the production of living products to make a significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and may also play an integral role in mitigating climate change and variability…"


provides the carbon footprint for a business based on stationary and transport energy use, fertiliser inputs and waste generation.

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia recognises that greater adoption of renewable energy technologies is a sound approach in reducing the demand on non-renewable energy, hence reducing emissions. Nursery & Garden Industry is evaluating energy co-generation, namely solar and wind power for the generation of electricity onsite. Utilising renewable technologies in *lieu* of non-renewable energy may present opportunities for growers to potentially reduce the economic burden, following the introduction of a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS).

6.1 *Urban forestry*

Urban forestry - encompassing the planning, design, establishment and management of trees and forest stands with amenity values in public or private areas - has become more widely accepted. In addition to the amenity value, these forests provide a multitude of environmental, human health and wellbeing benefits including:

- Improved air quality through interception of pollutants and oxygen production
- Production of food and natural fibre for humans
- Provision of habitat for plants and animals
- Consumption of $C0_2$ through photosynthesis
- Maintaining ground water hydrology
- Stabilisation of climate

- Maintaining soil organic matter
- Enhancing soil nitrogen and recycling of nutrients
- Provide a sense of place
- Enhanced aesthetics

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia urges greater recognition of the benefits associated with urban forests and the role they play mitigating climate change and variability. In 2009, NGIA hosted the inaugural Urban GreenScapes Symposium to position green-life and plants as an integral part of the solution to climate change by presenting the research and the reasoning in the areas of environment, health/wellbeing and planning to support this. The industry is currently investigating how to quantify and economically assess the environmental benefits of street trees.

Urban GreenScapes
Symposium 2009
Unveiling the benefits of green-life in the urban landscape

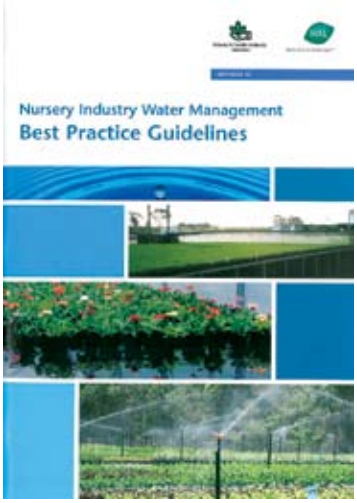

7 Managing water

Water is considered a finite resource, and one that industry is dependant upon for the production and care of plants. Industry recognises that managing water efficiently is a key driver to sound environmental performance and is committed to achieving improvements in water use efficiency across whole of industry. In recent years, Industry has developed several initiatives that demonstrate NGI is an efficient and responsible water user.

7.1.1 Nursery Industry Water Management Best Practice Guidelines

Developed in 1997, these guidelines promote the best practice water management in production and retail nurseries. These guidelines highlight five key areas to achieve sustainable water use:

1. Efficient water use to minimise water demand
2. Increased reuse of waste water to minimise water demand
3. Efficient management of sediment and litter
4. Maximum retention of nutrients to improve efficiency of production and maintain water quality
5. Environmentally responsible use of plant protection products to promote quality plants



7.1.2 Smart Approved Water Mark

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia in cooperation with Water Services Association of Australia, Australian Water Association and Irrigation Australia developed the Smart Approved Water Mark program. This program is Australia's national labelling scheme for outdoor water efficient products and services and is supported by the National Water Initiative, and the Water Smart Australia program.

7.1.3 Wise about Water

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia is committed to educating the public about how to save water in their gardens. This program, launched in 2004, provides retail garden centres with resources to educate the public about how to save water in their gardens. This program has ensured that the industry is seen by the community as a credible source of information.

7.1.4 Irrigation economic decision model

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia is committed to ensuring production nurseries are equipped with the most up-to-date irrigation system delivering greatest water use efficiencies. Nursery & Garden Industry Australia has developed a generic economic decision model to assess proposed changes to a nursery's irrigation system, whilst fostering greater adoption of innovative irrigation technologies. This tool supports best practice water management in production nurseries.


7.1.5 Managing nutrients in production nurseries

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia supports the pragmatic use of fertilisers to minimise nutrient leaching from potting media during irrigation of containerised plants. Research by NGIA into experimental reed beds, as a mechanism to filter nutrient laden run-off water from nurseries, resulted in a 90% reduction of nitrate and 96% of the phosphate present in nursery run-off. These reed beds can also eliminate *Phytophthora*. Where feasible, NGIA encourages the uptake of this technology as a viable mechanism to efficiently remove nutrients and organic matter from nursery run-off.

8 Invasive plants

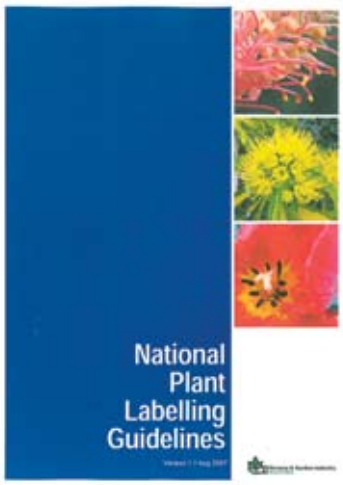
Industry is committed towards lessening the impact of invasive plants on the natural environment and halting the spread of garden escapes. The NGI is responsibly working towards eliminating known invasive plants from sale to ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. To achieve this, industry consults scientific literature to identify potentially invasive plants. In recent years, NGIA has taken significant steps forward in tackling the spread of invasive plants.

8.1 *Grow Me Instead*

The national Grow Me Instead (GMI) educational program is the largest and most important initiative undertaken by NGIA to reduce the spread of potentially invasive plants. This program has been designed to educate stakeholders including


landscapers, government, industry, gardeners and the wider public about potentially invasive plants and the impact they may have on the environment. For each state/territory, a GMI booklet has been developed that identifies potentially invasive garden plants and suggests superior, non-invasive alternative plants. Through this program, NGIA is committed to educating the public about making responsible plant choices and managing potentially invasive plants they may already have.

8.2 *National Plant Labelling Guidelines*



Nursery & Garden Industry recognises the importance of correct naming and labelling of plants, including the use of full species names. In collaboration with plant nomenclature experts, industry stakeholders and horticulturists, NGIA has developed national plant labelling guidelines. These guidelines provide guidance on how to correctly label plants and include:

- Correct botanical names – nomenclature
- Intellectual property – Plant Breeders Rights and Trademarks
- Plant growth requirements and characteristics
- Potentially harmful plants – health and environment


9 Managing waste

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia promotes the reduction in waste materials entering landfill. The industry is committed to minimising waste and maximising efficiencies by reducing, re-using, recycling and donating waste where appropriate. This is demonstrated by the industry's use of bark and coconut fibre (coir), waste by-products of timber and coconut harvesting, as a component of the raw ingredients that constitute a professional growing media.

10 Education initiatives – Knowledge is power

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia recognises that educating staff and business owners about key environmental issues is vital to ensure industry is adequately equipped with the knowledge and skills to competently tackle these issues head on. A skilled industry will cultivate innovation and responsiveness to change that will enable it to command the knowledge required to excel as the community's leader on relevant environmental issues. To achieve this goal, industry has developed multiple training packages including:

- EcoHort™ – An introduction to EMS for production nurseries
- BioSecure *HACCP* – Guidelines for managing biosecurity in nursery production


- Environmental Management for Retail Garden Centres – How to implement EMS in retail garden centres
- Waterwork series – Water treatment, irrigation, recycling and fertigation options for production nurseries
- Recognising and Monitoring Pests and Diseases
- Control & Management of Pests
- Implementing Integrated Pest Management
- Growing Media – Handling and physico-chemical properties of growing media in the context of industry Best Practice

10.1 *Best Practice Manual for Pesticide Application in the Nursery and Garden Industry*

The NGI recognises that safe pesticide use is vital to protect individuals and the environment and promotes best practices for handling, storage and disposal of pesticides. Nursery & Garden Industry Australia has developed an interactive CD that contains information on BMP for pesticide application to assist production nurseries identify and understand the range of pesticide application equipment available and the key issues relating to the use of pesticides in the nursery environment. The CD also contains a pesticide management diary to record pesticide application events.

10.2 *Recognising environmental achievement*

Every year NGIA hosts the Nursery & Garden Industry Awards that recognises business achievement. As part of these awards, business initiatives in relation to environmental management or community participation in relation to environmental issues, is acknowledged by the Nursery & Garden Industry Environment Award.


11 Environmental extension

11.1 *Development Officer network*

Extension of NGI research and development is paramount to improve the environmental standing of industry. The Development Officer (DO) network, established in the early 1990s, is the primary conduit for the extension of industry R&D to businesses. This valuable resource of qualified and experienced professionals provides the skills and expertise required by business to ensure they operate in an efficient, productive and sustainable manner. The DO network is also responsible for:

- Developing R&D projects
- Managing and/or facilitating training
- Representing industry on environmental issues at local, state or federal levels
- Delivering industry developed environmental BMP to businesses


11.2 *Environmental communication*

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia publish monthly Nursery Papers which provide information to the whole of industry on key issues that impact industry. The Nursery Papers report on R&D outcomes, emerging environmental issues and business sustainability. The information presented is clear, concise and includes actionable conclusions to assist in greater uptake.

12 Participating in the broader environmental debate

Industry believes that increasing public awareness about key environmental and sustainability issues is paramount to achieve behavioural change and is committed to being a community leader on relevant issues. Many Australians are keen to make change at a grass roots level, by making a difference in their own backyard. Indeed, 89% of Australians want more trees and green space in their local environment. In order to achieve this, retail garden centres are well positioned with experience and an understanding of local environmental issues. Furthermore, they are seen by the community as a credible source of information on key environmental issues.

> *“89% of Australians want more trees and green space in their local environment …”*

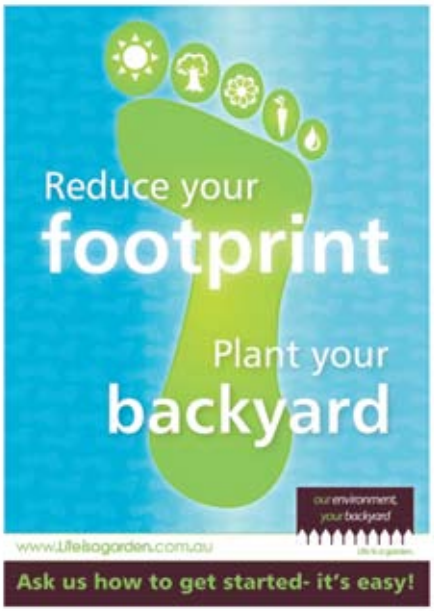
Under the umbrella of ‘Life is a Garden’ NGIA has actively fostered dialogue with the public. Nursery & Garden Industry Australia has a dedicated consumer website to communicate its environmental initiatives directly to the Australian public. Nursery & Garden Industry Australia supports sustainable gardening through initiatives such as “Our environment, your backyard”, “Reduce your footprint – plant your backyard” and “Flora for Fauna.”

12.1 *Our environment, your backyard*

This initiative informs the greater public that the best place to start making a difference to the environment is your own backyard. This campaign introduces some basic principles around key environmental issues including water, weeds, chemicals, recycling and habitat conservation. This campaign encourages consumers to think globally and act locally.

12.2 *Reduce your footprint – plant your backyard*

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia actively supports World Environment Day. Throughout the month of June the Nursery & Garden Industry encourages all Australians to get out into their backyards and spend more time in their garden to reduce their environmental footprint.



12.3 *Grow your own*

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia encourages wider adoption of the 'grow your own' concept. By growing their own food, consumers can minimize food miles and reduce their environmental footprint.

12.4 *Flora for Fauna*

Nursery & Garden Industry Australia has had a long history in progress towards minimising biodiversity decline. Flora for Fauna is a nation-wide biodiversity initiative designed to educate the public about how to attract different types of native fauna, relative to their geographical location, into their gardens. This initiative demonstrates how plants can promote habitat that enables the maintenance of Australia's rich biodiversity.

13 Across industry programs

Nursery and Garden Industry Australia is committed to working with other peak industry bodies to address key environmental issues. For several years, NGIA has been involved in across industry programs initiated by Horticulture Australia Limited in recognition of the need for an industry driven response to key environmental issues. These include:

- Horticulture for Tomorrow
- Horticulture Natural Resource Management Initiative
- Horticulture Water Initiative
- National Horticulture Climate Initiative

13.1 *Horticulture for Tomorrow*

This program was initiated to assist grower's link production targets with managing the environment and emphasise this relationship as an integral part of daily business management. A key outcome of this program was the development of Guidelines of Environmental Assurance in Australian Horticulture.


13.2 *Horticulture Natural Resource Management Initiative*

This program was devised to educate and inform industries of their natural resource management responsibilities and to ensure that adequate resources were available for growers to address key environmental issues. A key outcome of this program was the Horticulture Natural Resource Management Strategy – a national industry-wide approach for natural resource management in the horticultural sector.

13.3 *Horticulture Water Initiative*

The Horticulture Water Initiative was instigated to develop horticultures' voice in water policy debates, increase industry and community awareness of relevant water issues facing horticulture, and pursue projects to enhance horticulture's water use efficiency. This initiative aims to ensure access to water for responsible and profitable use is sustained across all horticultural industries.

The Initiative has five broad objectives:

1. Empower industry to identify major water issues
2. Develop partnerships with stakeholders to ensure collaboration and communication of outcomes
3. Exhibit innovation of new technologies and overcome barriers of adoption
4. Develop a consistent policy framework with a consistent message
5. Position industry to promote achievements and provide tools.

13.4 *National Horticulture Climate Initiative*

The primary focus of the National Horticulture Climate Initiative is to ensure that all Australian horticultural industries are equipped with the tools and resources required to successfully adapt and embrace climate change and variability. One of the key outcomes of this initiative is to develop appropriate communication and extension methods to ensure growers are aware of the issues and have access to adaptive information and tools.

Other key areas of focus include:

1. Assess the impact of climate change on industries
2. Understand how crops respond to climate change and climate variability
3. Develop climate change adaptation strategies in response to 1.) and 2.) above
4. Better understand climate variability

14 Research and development

Key environmental issues such as climate change and variability, biosecurity, water availability and invasive plants will continue to impact on the long term health and sustainability of the NGI. These key environmental issues, where they are managed well, can present our industry with opportunities for growth.

In order for Industry to identify these opportunities and enhance industry's capacity for innovation, the NGI is committed to investing in research and


development. Nursery and Garden Industry Australia's research and development program aims to lessen the impact of industry on key components of the environment and conserve and enhance Australia natural resources. By linking with national research institutions and external stakeholders, the NGI will minimise duplication and maximise transfer of knowledge to industry through greater research and development outputs.

Research and development will enhance industry capacity for innovation, expertise and knowledge to p*romote* ***a sustainable future & position the industry as an environmental steward and leader.***

15 Further information

If you would like more information about the NGIA Environmental Sustainability Position, contact Dr Anthony Kachenko at NGIA on (02) 9876 5200 or anthony.kachenko@ngia.com.au; or visit the environment pages at www.ngia.com.au

Industry Working in Harmony with the Environment for a Sustainable Future

www.ngia.com.au

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