

Local Firm Fights Yasi Odours and Recycles Waste

While better known for its award-winning range of soil improvement and agricultural products, local Biotech firm VRM has been helping North Queensland deal with odours and organic wastes for the past decade or more.

Cyclone Yasi has impacted on lots of people and businesses in the North and VRM is no exception with more than half of its customers in the agricultural sector now under pressure. Long known for its work helping the sugar industry control odours at mills up and down the coast, VRM also has a little known product range which is used in households and businesses all over Europe and other parts of the world. In the wake of cyclone Yasi, one of the most important areas of cleanup is the management of the health issues and odours which come from rotting vegetation and other organic residues. Old food and vegetables, sewerage which may have escaped during heavy rain are a haven for bacteria and other bad bugs which can cause problems for us all. Bad odour is often an indicator that this type of activity is flourishing.

Enter VRM. For more than a decade, VRM has manufactured natural biotech products which combat the bad bugs which cause odour. At the same time, these naturally brewed formulations are responsible for rapid breakdown of organic wastes without the problems caused by bad bacteria. What this means is that it is possible to eliminate odours at their source, by outcompeting the activity causing the odour, rather than just covering the odour up. And there is an on-going effect too. Where these VRM Bio-Cleaners are used,

there is an on-going effect to help limit the re-development of bad bacteria long after the cleaning has taken place.

VRM's answer to Yasi's impact is to now offer these industrially proven products to households and businesses here in the North. Look for VRM Power Clean at the Willows Markets or at www.vrm.com.au.



Compost Ain't Compost

Cyclone Yasi also dumped millions of tonnes of waste vegetation all over North Queensland. While some people (farmers and gardeners) might like a bit of extra compost, those who deal with wastes know that just piling up compostable material does not necessarily mean the outcome will be positive.

There are all sorts of problems (odours, disease, fungal outbreaks, etc) which come from the piling up of lots of rotting vegetation. Add to that the many tonnes of waste food which has had to be thrown out and there can be quite a problem created. VRM BioLogik is a Townsville firm but has been providing specialised services to composting operations all over Australia for many years. Products made by VRM here in Townsville are used all over Australia to stabilise the biological reactions which take place when organic material is piled up. This can help to manage the odours which often come -- but much more importantly, these products help to support the natural process of digesting organic material so that negative outcomes do not appear. This adds up to much faster - and much safer - composting.

The technologies employed in this accelerated composting process were recently the subject of a major study undertaken by the Australian National University and the NSW Department of Climate Change. Remarkably, this study has shown that these products can control odour at the source of the odour within a pile of vegetation and can also help the pile to reduce the massive carbon losses which happen when material is composted. In fact, some of the piles treated with VRM products actually start to CAPTURE carbon rather than releasing CO2 as the material is digested.

This is compost with a difference.

VRM now offers VRM Liquid Bokashi, a composting accelerant for use around homes and in businesses where there are food wastes and organic material to manage. Wheelie Bins, compost piles, green waste recycling areas and the like are all places this product can be used.

Made from a combination of locally grown pumpkins and locally grown natural biotech formulations, this product helps to rapidly break down organic material and manage the odour at the same time.

