

The Vegetation Manager

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Note from the CEO

This month we are extremely proud to announce the launch of Technigro Ideas. A web based ideas portal, Technigro Ideas provides our customers, employees and other partners with a quick and simple way to suggest ideas on how we can improve, as well as collaborate and grow other people's ideas. One of our core values is 'achieving more together' and I look forward to Technigro Ideas becoming a valuable new tool as we strive to improve and find better ways to manage vegetation.

This month we were also privileged to be announced as the September winners of

the Mayors Innovation GC Award in the 2009 Gold Coast Business Excellence Award's. Throughout our 20 plus years in the industry Technigro has cemented its reputation as being 'passionate innovators', another of our core values. We look forward with anticipation to the 2009 Gala Awards Presentation next month where the overall winner will be announced.

Have a great month and I look forward to talking to you again next month

Kind regards, Nick

Upcoming Events.

- > **4th Victorian Weed Conference**
Plants Behaving Badly in Agriculture and the Environment
7th - 8th October, Geelong, VIC
- > **22nd Asia Pacific Weed Science Society Conference**
Judicious Weed Management
Road to Sustainability.
19th - 23rd October, Pakistan
- > **National Recycling Week**
9th - 15th November

Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards



In the News

Technigro announced as winners of the Mayors Innovation GC Award

Technigro were recently announced as the September winners of the Mayors Innovation GC Award in the Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards.

The Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards have been running since 1996. Over the past fourteen years, the Awards have grown to be recognised as the Gold Coasts most comprehensive and prestigious awards scheme, offering specific and meaningful benefits to the wider Gold Coast business community.

The Awards seek to contribute to the self-image and identity of Gold Coast business and to foster pride in this business community. They also seek to improve the outside perception of Gold Coast business and recognise leading businesses with a view to encouraging others to improve.

Technigro is well known for its unrelenting pursuit of excellence and its innovative approach, both primary drivers behind everything we do. We are always looking for new and improved ways to service our customers while better protecting the environment; a cause that has seen us establish a government recognised research and development facility. Each year, Technigro reinvest a significant proportion of annual profits

into operating this facility, and will continue to do so in the future.

It is our belief that pressing ahead with the development of new and better work techniques, new types of equipment and better product selections will enable us to continue the introduction of safer, greener and more cost effective methods of carrying out vegetation management.

Our R&D facility has produced a number of important EcoSmart® Solutions unique to Technigro, including the DriftProof® spray unit, EcoSpray®, EcoWash®, SmartWiper® and AutoMix®. **Visit www.technigro.com.au to learn more about these Smarter Solutions.**

As winners of the September award, Technigro automatically becomes a finalist for the 2009 Mayors Innovation GC Award to be presented in November at a black tie gala evening presentation at Conrad Jupiter's.

Technigro would specifically like to thank George Kast, the Research and Development Manager, for his hard work and commitment which has helped to drive many of the innovations Technigro has established.

Innovation Update: Introducing Technigro Ideas



Logged in as:

Welcome to Technigro Ideas

A Message from our CEO, Nick Bloor

Welcome to our exciting new Ideas portal, the public face of our Innovation System and a place where you are invited to suggest improvements on how we can do things better at Technigro.

At Technigro we are:

- Committed to delivering best value outcomes that lower the net cost of managing public open spaces,
- Acclaimed as being passionate innovators... this is in fact one of our core values, and
- Appreciative of the fact that the people we work and do business with are full of great ideas

This Ideas portal builds on these attributes by providing an easy way to volunteer your ideas, as well as collaborate with others to build on their ideas. All ideas are rewarded in a fun and gratifying way. So I invite you to come on board and help us to build the type of organisation that we can all be proud of and in so doing make our workplace, our environment and indeed our lives a better and happier place to be.

If you would like to join us but haven't yet been issued with log in details, or if you have any other questions about this portal, please click on the link below and send us a message so that we can get back to you.

[Contact Us](#)



How often have you looked for an answer to an issue of concern and thought “I wish that someone could ...?”. We think that maybe with your help, we can.

It would not be possible for Technigro to continue to grow without the innovative assistance of a great number of individuals and organisations within and around our company.

We are the first to admit that we don't always have all the answers and we needed to create a better way to finding those answers. We have long realised that not only are our own people full of good ideas, but our “external stakeholders” are also an invaluable ideas resource. We are convinced that the power of collaboration and team work is what can turn a good idea into a great idea.

Our challenge to date was how to harvest this resource, how to evaluate the bounty in a fair and impartial manner, and how to recognise and reward contributors.

We are proud to be recognised as one the few organisations who are spearheading the development and introduction of web based Ideas Management Systems in this country. We have recently launched Technigro Ideas, our (culturally Australian) Ideas Management Portal which we developed in conjunction with a leading US based Ideas Systems specialist company.

Technigro Ideas has been designed to be challenge based. This means not only do we ask you to share your ‘inspirations’ and random suggestions, but

also to come up with ideas in response to particular challenges with which we are often faced. One specific example of a challenge which is currently published is: “What can Technigro do to create a better Aquatic Vegetation resource?” This is where you as a customer could tell us what specific services you would like us to be able to provide. Alternatively, if you are a supplier perhaps you could suggest how we could better service our customers through use of your products. On another front, if you are a member of a community group you would be ideally placed to let us know what aesthetic outcomes you might like to see arising out of certain work we perform.

Another key feature of Technigro Ideas is its collaborative nature. Any ideas submitted will be visible to others and available for them to build on. This harnesses the power of interaction, of teamwork and of building on the strengths of others permitting us to focus our energy where it is most productive and in particular on those issues of most importance to you. This collaborative type process also offers you the opportunity to develop and expand your own professional network.

So in introducing you to Technigro Ideas we would like to ask you to volunteer a little of your time to help us identify, develop and provide solutions to those issues of direct concern to you. We also invite you to help us to find solutions to issues we have identified as being a roadblock to our ability to providing the high levels of service our customers, the community and the environment demand and deserve... and indeed expect of us.

We recognise that anybody who gives of their time to help us in this quest is a volunteer and is entitled to recognition and reward. Technigro Ideas includes a fun based rewards scheme which has been structured to take into account that many of our external stakeholders are prohibited from accepting gratuities. More information can be found on the rewards page on our ideas site.

Technigro Ideas can be found at www.technigro-ideas.com.au. Alternatively Technigro Ideas can also be accessed via a link from the Technigro website. For more information about Technigro Ideas, or to request a login and password, please contact us. Alternatively, call George on **1800 678 611** or send him an email at george.kast@technigro.com.au.

We look forward to working with you through Technigro Ideas to “help us to help you”.

Amendments & Fertilising



It's that time of the year: Renovation season!

October is part of the busy renovation period - the perfect time to apply soil amendments and fertiliser to get your turf growing. When applied correctly these products will greatly improve the vigour and health of your turf, ensuring it has the best chance to resist the stresses of drought, wear and weed infestation. To learn more about how Technigro can help you with this important turf management process, read our Soil Amendment & Fertiliser Spreading fact sheet on page 4 or call us on 1800 678 611 to talk to one of our Turf Services specialists.

In the news: Traffic control & MUTCD compliance - key components of roadside work



Top: Immobile traffic control

Above: Mobile traffic control

Traffic control is a critical component when undertaking all types of road work or roadside maintenance. Traffic control not only protects the workers and motorists, it also assists in maintaining the flow of traffic, minimising the frustrations felt by motorists, which have even been known to escalate into road rage. Traffic control devices, such as signage, are an integral element of traffic control. They assist in reducing crashes and congestion, and improve the efficiency of the surface transportation system.

In Australia, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) defines the minimum standards, with road managers required to install appropriate traffic control devices on all roads prior to commencing work and then properly maintain them throughout the duration of the works. By standardising processes and signage, MUTCD brings uniformity to the roadway and plays a crucial role in improving safety and mobility of all road users. Non-compliance with the MUTCD can result in works being immediately closed down and other penalties such as the loss of federal-aid funds. It also exposes any offender to a significant increase in tort liability.

To this point in time, these regulations have not always been closely monitored or rigidly enforced; probably because the cost associated with full compliance would inevitably have to be passed onto customers already struggling to balance their maintenance budgets. Technigro has now accepted those days have come to an end. Over the past few years we have successfully implemented more efficient work practices to reach the point where these days the implementation of full MUTCD compliance is as close to cost neutral as possible.

We can now report all roadside works being undertaken by Technigro on minor and major roads are fully compliant with the MUTCD and full compliance on major road reserves will also be achieved by December 2009; all without any increase in the rates currently being charged. In addition to this, Technigro have an ongoing commitment to finding smarter solutions for roadside maintenance to maximise safety for all involved while also minimising traffic congestion and still meeting all work requirements and statutory obligations.

Road networks attract considerably less traffic during the night so utilising this time to undertake roadside maintenance means greater efficiency and a safer working environment for staff while also minimising the number of motorists affected. Technigro's night shift teams are fully outfitted with the right equipment and control devices to effectively complete roadside maintenance in a fully compliant manner with the minimum of disruption while the rest of the community sleeps.

Technigro has also implemented a mobile traffic control system. This system works with the traffic flow, rather than against it, permitting activities such as mowing to be completed with fully compliant traffic control in a seamless manner. Replacing the old fashioned stagnant traffic control system, where devices have to be moved and set up again for each new section of road saves time and money, and minimises disruption to the natural flow to traffic.

Both of these smarter solutions to roadside maintenance and traffic control have been devised and successfully implemented throughout the first year of our current Road Maintenance Performance Contract with the Dept. Of Main Roads and can now be considered proven methodology.

In the first 12 months of this contract, two separate independent audits have been carried out which Technigro has passed with ease. Technigro has also been commended not only for the quality of work completed on the road network, but also on the traffic control systems it has introduced which are now ensuring both workers and drivers can coexist together in complete harmony and safety.

By seizing the initiative, Technigro is demonstrating in the most positive manner possible that it is wants to lead the way and set an example for others to follow. We are totally committed to undertaking all roadside work in the safest, most efficient and cost effective manner possible for every client. Our ultimate aim is to eventually raise the current standards to a point where our entire industry is carrying all work of this nature in a fully compliant manner, including full compliance with the MUTDC.

Fast Facts.

- > Recycling one tonne of paper and cardboard saves approximately 13 trees.
- > Recycling 41 plastic bottles saves enough energy to run a refrigerator for one hour.
- > Australia manufactures more than 1 million tonnes of glass per annum. Only about one third of this is recycled.

Soil Amendment & Fertiliser Spreading



Soil amendments and fertiliser greatly improve the vigour and health of turf grass when correctly scheduled into a proactive management program. The application of soil amendments and fertiliser is a crucial component of any turf management program as it provides the desirable species with the nutrition required to stay healthy and out-compete the undesirable weed species.

The use of our quad mounted spreading equipment is perfect for the application of soil amendments and granular fertilisers due to their lightweight nature, eliminating surface damage and compaction issues.

Accuracy is assured through the use of a foam marking system, eliminating the costly wastage of product and uneven growth patterns due to missed areas or overlapping applications.

Benefits

- > Fitout and spray equipment purpose designed and built for sportsfields and parks
- > Highly accurate and uniform application
- > Lightweight and suitable to go on any class of turf
- > Manoeuvrable with safe 360 degree vision
- > Low centre of gravity for maximum stability when working on uneven terrain
- > Safe operation with highly visible safety lighting and signage utilised
- > Ability to accurately and efficiently spread all granular amendments
- > Low sided hopper for easy filling and reduced risk of product wastage
- > Time efficient application ensures large programs can be completed quickly
- > Versatility in applications over a wide range of products and situations

Application

Our experienced team specialise in the precision application of all granular products using quad mounted spreading equipment. This includes combination products such as Ronstar + Starter or Pre M that allow the application of a pre-emergent weed barrier whilst applying fertiliser to the area being treated.

Technigro recommend conducting a soil test prior to amendment application to accurately identify and rectify soil deficiencies. This information is used in the development of an effective soil amendment and nutrition program that will ensure your turf is receiving the nutrition it requires all year round.

Our specialist Turf Services Team is available to support Turf Managers with every aspect of their turf management program from soil testing through to program development and service delivery. Contact us today to see how we can help you for smarter solutions

Your Provider of Vegetation Management Solutions

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for smarter solutions