



ALTERNATIVE COVERS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (A-ACAP)

As the use of phytocaps is a relatively new approach to landfill capping, each site must be individually evaluated and designed for compliance with regulatory performance criteria by responding to soil, climate and vegetation developed and then trialled before it can be adopted as a landfill licence condition.

As this process is time consuming, analysis has progressed significantly– initially in the US but now in Australia – to develop phytocap design guidelines for a broad range of climate, plant and soil conditions.

The US initiated research work – the Alternative Covers Assessment Program (ACAP) is now in a new phase and involving collaboration between Australian universities, the CSIRO, test site owners, industry sponsors through a peer review panel of and international experts.

A-ACAP

Following a successful international lecture series – which introduced the advantage of phyto solutions to waste management issues – in 2003, attention has been given to utilising phytocaps in Australia.

The result of this initiative has been the establishment of the Australian ACAP (AACAP) research project sponsored by PhytoLink (an Australian technology company), the Waste Management Association Australia (WMAA) and the Australian Research Council (ARC).

A-ACAP has three objectives:

- extend the knowledge gained from the original US based ACAP initiative;
- develop national design guidelines for phytocaps;
- expand the use of phytotechniques throughout Australia.

INDUSTRY FUNDING

Following the initial collaboration between PhytoLink and the WMAA, cash plus inkind funding of approximately \$2.1 million program has been secured from local industry sponsors in 5 states:

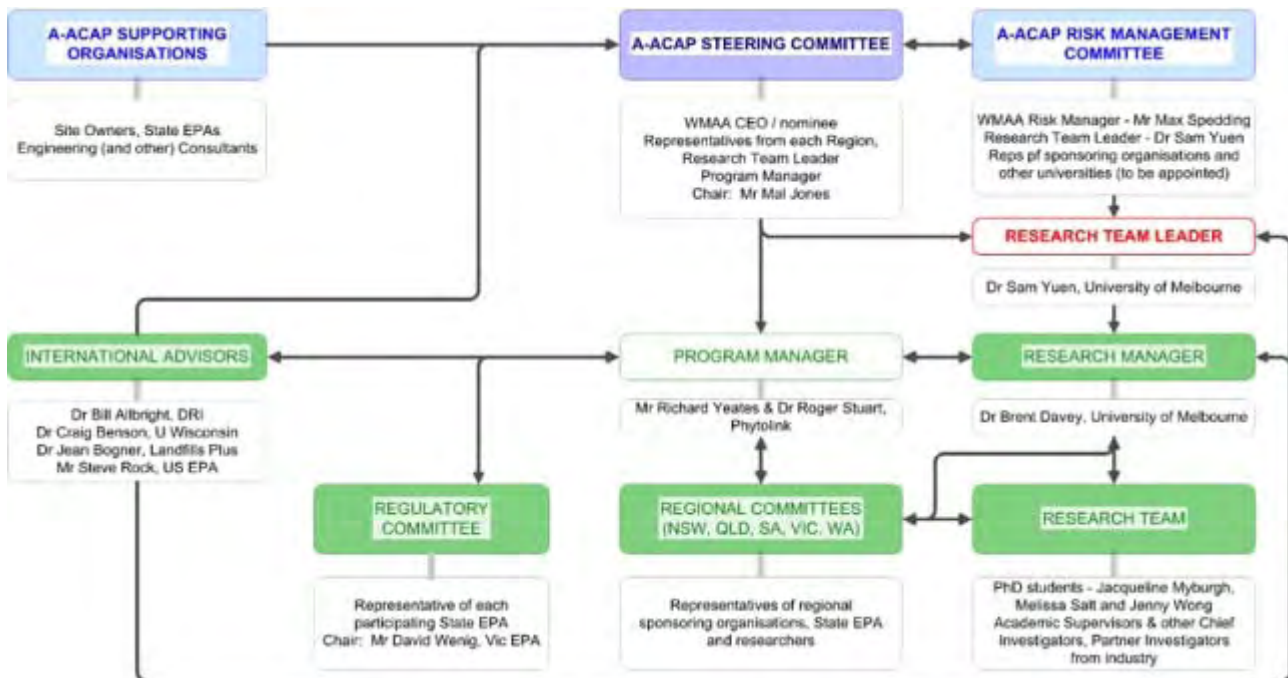
National Sponsors	Lucas Waste Management. SITA Environmental Solutions	WSN Environmental Solutions Townsville City Council
Host Sites	Lucas W M (Adelaide) Townsville City Council (Qld) City of Cockburn (Perth)	SITA (Melbourne) Lismore City Council
Major Sponsors	Adelaide City Council Baxter Group City of Armadale City of Cockburn City of Rockingham Maunsell Australia Mindarie Regional Council NAWMA	SRWRA Thiess Services Tonkin Consulting Transpacific Waste Management URS Veolia WALS
Supporters	Bankstown City Council Boral Landfill and Waste Cairns Regional Council Clayton Rd. Landfill Cleanaway EPA Queensland EPA Victoria Geraldton Greenough RC Golder Gosford City Council Great Lakes Council Lake Macquarie City Council	Lismore City Council Maitland City Council Muswellbrook Council Newcastle City Council NSW Dept of Environment & Climate Change Pt. Stephens Council Rockhampton Regional Council Singleton Council South West Waste Wyndham City Council Wyong Council

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Following confirmed pledges of industry support for the A-ACAP the WMAA and the University of Melbourne (UoM) successfully applied to the Australian Research Council (ARC) for government support for the development of a phytocap design guideline. This application was successful and funding of \$735,000 (over three years) has been secured to support the research program.

DIRECTION & MANAGEMENT

As A-ACAP is a complex project, a review and management structure has been put in place to ensure regular reviews are conducted and that communication is maintained across all stakeholders.



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