

Fertiliser: Why is it so important?

The fertilizer industry is a major contributor to a better environment and a driver of the economy.

Fertilisers are nutrients required for productive, economical, sustainable farming.

They are a fundamental component of land care management.

Nutrient addition to farmland is essential to correct the inherent nutrient deficiencies in most Australian soils, particularly Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium and Sulphur.

- ☒ To replace the nutrients removed in the production of food and fibre and timber, and used in the sale of animals and crops.
- ☒ To promote plant and pasture productivity. Plants and pastures grown with adequate nutrient are more productive. More animals can be grazed and more productive crops can be grown and harvested.
- ☒ Stronger growing and nutritious crops and pastures naturally require more nutrient to maintain strong growth and survive. Adequate nutrient maintains better crops and better pasture species, along with better organic matter and soil health.
- ☒ To maintain our land and soils in good condition for the present and sustain it for the future.

At the farm level better farm soil and fertility enables farmers to use best crop and pasture varieties, giving them more versatility to better manage and increase their crop and stock production. This ultimately keeps farming more economical and viable.

Without adequate soil nutrients to promote good crops for farmers to sell, and good pastures where more animals can be produced, farming would not be economical and farmers would stop producing food and export income would be reduced. It is estimated that if we stopped using fertiliser, food production in Australia would drop by 40% in 3 years and keep falling, food prices would soar and export income would be decimated. The Australian economy would be very heavily reduced.

Because fertilisers do so much to improve farming economy they also assist the environment. Because productivity is improved, there is less need to extend farmlands further, reducing the need for more forest and native vegetation removal to maintain world food production. Good fertility increases plant water uptake and irrigation efficiency, reducing the need to harvest more water.