

Pyro Ag Australia - our story

PYRO Ag Australia co-director John Mellowes is an engineer and runs a medium-sized business in north Sydney.

The other co-director is Chad Sheppard, who has been heavily involved in agricultural businesses his whole working life.

"We started to explore alternative energy further and became interested in the growing exposure of bio-char, which led to an interest in the production of pyrolygneous acid," John said.

"Chad had contact and worked with some leading research scientists on his doorstep in Newcastle.

"They had patented a new biomass conversion technology way ahead of anything else, not only in Australia but also

Fert West Ag

ADVERTISING PROMOTION

internationally.

"They built and commissioned a continuous biomass converter and have been trialing various waste biomass during the past few years.

"The pyrolygneous acid we have sold has all come from the CBC.

"The CBC produces a liquid product called Pyro Ag, and a bi-product is bio-char. There are no emissions in this process.

"A CBC is currently being deployed at the company's facility.

"On our shortlist now is developing an air seeder-friendly bio-char which has the potential to enable farmers to

reduce the amount of chemical fertilisers currently being used.

"We are also finding our clients using Pyro Ag since 2014 have been able to reduce their chemical costs."

It has also been found, due to the odour, Pyro Ag has a repellent effect on snails.

Steering snails and slugs by means of olfactory cues is a well-known phenomenon, as repellent odours induce mantle shortening and withdrawal from the odorant.

When confronted with the Pyro Ag, snails stop about one centimetre from the substrate and turn around to escape the unpleasant odour.

Pyro Ag can be purchased from Bob Harkness at Fert West Ag, contact 0418 847 856.

