



## CARBON FARMING INITIATIVE

Building Carbon in the Soil with Compost Production

*Contributing bodies:* Tweed Shire Council – Tweed Sustainable Agriculture Network – Department of Primary Industries (DPI) – Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA) – SoiLife Group – Tweed Valley Farmers

Holistic approach to building healthy soil by: **regenerating life in the soil and building soil carbon.**

- ❖ 11 farms in the Tweed Valley: 5 Beef, 5 Dairy and 1 Banana Farmer
- ❖ 3 year project
- ❖ Improved land management practices - long-term solutions for sustainable production.
- ❖ Creating compost from green waste at TSC Stotts Creek Landfill, using SoiLife compost builder (no turn). In conjunction with other carbon rich soil amendments – dairy manure and effluent, forestry and other (mill mud).
- ❖ In 3ha lots, - split into three trial sections: 20t compost, 10t compost and 1 control
- ❖ Using Microbes to develop the natural processes - for the provision all essential nutrients – through a symbiotic relationship with plants.
  - Additional benefits (discounted by current broadscale agriculture –providing nutrients in elemental form readily available to plants):
    - Development of SOM that prevents leaching (improves water holding capacity), improves soil aeration (structure) – recycling of nutrients in organic matter.
    - Creation of humus (stable form of carbon) – by product of microbial decomposition (feeding/processing).
    - Mineralization & immobilization
    - Resistance to pathogens – weeds, pests and disease thrive in soils with a low diversity of microbes