

AB MAURI



AB Mauri

Good connections Profitable sustainability

Business sustainability

General Manager Operations of AB Mauri (www.abmauri.com) and Chair of the Business Camellia Group (CBG), Chris King says that yeast production is a sound business to be in during a downturn. "More people buy more bread rather than eating out and they often turn away from premium to lower cost brands that require more yeast. That trend is good for business."

There are two primary ingredients to make yeast: sugar extracted from molasses- a by-product of the sugar refining process, and water. Water is also an expensive element in the operations at AB Mauri. A

beneficiary of someone else's unwanted by-product (molasses), the company is set to turn its water outputs into valuable inputs for its Camellia neighbours.

A fully operational water treatment plant on site uses anaerobic bacteria to transform manufacturing effluent into recycling water. Further treatment of this water may improve its suitability for cooling towers and as an input for other water intensive industries on the peninsula.

A keen cyclist, Chris King has introduced a bicycle subsidy program that is gaining support of others along the peninsula. Employees at AB Mauri receive

financial subsidies of up to \$1,000 for the cost of purchasing a bicycle through a \$10 company contribution for every day they cycle to work.

Outcomes

The networking connections that have emerged from the re-invigorated Camellia Business Group have enabled Chris King to investigate recycling options that benefit many businesses.

Organic waste that can't be put to other use can be sent to another Grant Avenue Resident, EarthPower, which transforms waste into methane gas and high quality organic fertilisers used for parks, sports grounds and landscaping.

Conscious of the fact that AB Mauri uses a lot of energy to manufacture its yeast products and is heavily dependent on road tankers to deliver inputs, the company has managed to recycle over 95 per cent of its waste products, reducing the cost of disposal and creative potential future revenue streams.

AB Mauri can save up to \$100,000 a year on effluent disposal and generate a further \$200,000 a year in related revenue.

Lessons learned

According to Chris King, sustainability makes good business sense. Treating effluent alone costs the company around \$500,000 each year, so any opportunity to re-coup some of these costs through



“Where there’s waste there’s brass”

Chris King

recycling will have a positive impact on the bottom line.

at least three times a week from Manly via ferry, Rivercat and bicycle.

Future actions

Like other residents in Grand Avenue, Chris King would like to see the development of better cycle ways in the precinct to encourage healthy transport options for workers. Adding 15 minutes to his normal travel time is a small price for Chris King to pay to come to work

Business background

AB Mauri is situated on the Camellia peninsula. It produces and markets yeast for bakers, winemakers and brewers. The company also provides thousands of tonnes of yeast each year for the iconic brand, Vegemite. A subsidiary of Associated British Foods, AB Mauri owns the Grand Avenue site from which it has operate for 30 years.