A major by-product from treating wastewater is sludge - the solids component that receives further treatment before either having lime applied or undergoing anaerobic digestion.

The solids resulting from the liming and digestion treatment process are called biosolids. We produce 2 types of biosolids suitable for direct land application in broad-acre agriculture - biosolids cake (20% solids) and lime-amended biosolids (30% solids).

Biosolids are rich in nutrients and organic matter, making them good natural fertilisers and soil improvers. Farmers and other users have been beneficially using biosolids for years because they help promote crop and plant growth.

# Spreading of biosolids

* Spreading can only commence when weather conditions permit, namely not during or prior to rainfall events or strong winds
* Biosolids are applied to land with <12% slope, subject to soil conservation measures
* Biosolids are not spread within areas of environmental significance
* All spreading activities are undertaken in accordance with DWER and DoH approvals
* Prescribed buffer distances are applied to reduce risk and protect water resources.

**Storage**

* Stockpiles need to be located on flat ground and away from waterways and sensitive premises
* If stored for extended periods, the stockpile must be secure, have drainage controls and bunding
* All storage and application sites must be adequately sign posted
* Subject to the time of the year, stockpiles need to be inspected for fly breeding and control measures implemented if fly breeding is detected.

**Transport**

* Biosolids should be spadeable to ensure stability while being transported
* Biosolids trailers have grain locks, watertight seals and sealed tarps to reduce the risk of odour and uncontrolled discharges
* Each trailer is washed down prior to leaving farm to reduce risk of biosolids carryover.

**Application**

* Biosolids application rates are limited by nutrient or contaminant levels based on background soil levels, crop requirements and biosolids quality
* When spread, biosolids should be incorporated into the soil within 36hrs or otherwise when environmental conditions permit
* Livestock should be excluded from biosolids stockpiles and paddocks, and stock withholding periods apply
* Accurate records are maintained specific to volumes, quality, and application rates / area
* All persons handling biosolids are made aware of the risk and OHS requirements.

**Further information**

For further information visit [WA Guideline for Biosolids Management](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/western-australian-guidelines-biosolids-management) (https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/western-australian-guidelines-biosolids-management) or the [Water Corporation website](https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Our-water/Wastewater/Biosolids) (<https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Our-water/Wastewater/Biosolids>).

**Enquiries**

For all enquiries, please call Water Corporation on 13 13 75.