



Managing director Matt Shackleton with a sample of the potash.

Potash set for crop trial

JENNE BRAMMER

Australian Potash is about to embark on Australia's first field trials to analyse WA-produced sulphate of potash fertiliser on crops, marking a major step in the company's ambitions to offer the locally produced fertiliser at lower cost to WA farmers.

The two-year study and broadacre field trials will start this growing season, to analyse the effects of the SOP fertiliser, comparing it with the more commonly used muriate of potash, which

is imported at higher cost. The trials, in conjunction with the WA No-Tillage Farmers Association and UWA's Institute of Agriculture, will analyse the effects of both potassium sources on crop yield, quality, safety and value.

AP managing director Matt Shackleton said the introduction of the locally produced product could have big benefits for farmers. SOP is considered superior but costs about \$1000 a tonne to import, above the average \$650 a tonne for MOP.