



2 May 2022

Dear participant

## **SHARING SOIL DATA WITH THE HISTORICAL SOIL DATA CAPTURE PAYMENTS PROGRAM**

The Australian Government recognises the important role of healthy soil to support agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability. In May 2021, the National Soil Strategy was announced, outlining three key goals: prioritise soil health, empower soil innovation and stewards, and strengthen soil knowledge and capability.

Soil provides essential ecosystem services to support and contribute to Australia's economic, environmental, and social wellbeing, including food and fibre production; water storage, filtration and nutrient cycling; and carbon storage. Access to robust soil data is important and will support on-farm decision making, regional benchmarking, research and innovation, and future policy design to benefit all Australians.

The Historical Soil Data Capture Payments Program aims to increase access to privately held historical soil data, which will improve our understanding of Australia's soil health and condition over time. Participants (data owners) will receive a financial payment in exchange for sharing historical soil data with the program through data brokers. Soil data shared with the program will ultimately be consolidated, standardised, aggregated and made publicly available through the Australian National Soil Information System (ANSIS).

The contribution of your historical soil data will enhance data availability and coverage across Australia, both geographically and over time. It will complement existing soil data which will be made available through ANSIS and reduce the loss of important historic soil data.

### **To participate**

Data owners are required to read and sign the attached Data Sharing Deed (deed). The deed licenses the soil data generated through the program to the data broker (and via sublicensing arrangement, the government). The license will provide the data broker and the government with rights to store, manage, access, use and further sublicense the data through ANSIS. This letter and associated frequently asked questions explain the purpose of the deed and is designed to help data owners understand how their personal information and historical soil data will be collected and used.

### **Privacy notice**

Please be aware that the collection of some personal information is a requirement of program participation.

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable. The department will collect your personal information including your name and contact details, as well as soil data georeferencing information (as defined by the Privacy Act 1988) for program administration, verifying participant eligibility and other related purposes.

Soil data georeferencing information is collected to provide the exact location of data points when accessed by specific users of ANSIS, to support program administration and other related purposes. Your name and contact details will not be stored on or made available through ANSIS. Your soil data collected through this program will **only** be displayed at the aggregate level when viewed by the public, meaning individual soil data geolocations will be combined with other soil data to exclude exact location information.

Specific users may request access to geolocated (unaggregated) soil data via licensing requests for approved purposes. These users may include, but are not limited to researchers, Australian Government agencies, and the CSIRO for approved purposes such as furthering soil research, decision making and future soil policy development.

Failure to provide some or all, of the required personal information may prevent your participation in the program. The department may disclose your personal information to other Australian Government agencies, persons, or organisations where necessary for the above purposes, provided the disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, in particular the Privacy Act 1988 (Privacy Act). Your personal information will only be used and stored in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles.

The department has taken every reasonable step to protect your anonymity and prevent your soil data from being used for non-approved purposes, but the department has no control over any misuse of soil data which has been accessed by approved users.

See the department's Privacy Policy (<https://www.awe.gov.au/about/commitment/privacy>) to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint. Alternatively, email the department at [privacy@awe.gov.au](mailto:privacy@awe.gov.au).

### Information collection and access

The below tables further outline what information and soil data will be collected, what will appear on ANSIS, and who may access this information.

**Table 1: Information which will not be stored on or visible through ANSIS**

Personal information (name, contact details, address)
Individual responses to the data owner qualitative survey

**Table 2: Data which will only be made available to specific users**

Unaggregated soil data
Georeferenced soil data locations (including longitude and latitude)

**Table 3: Data which will be made publicly available for use**

Aggregated soil test data
Aggregated summaries and trends identified through the qualitative survey responses

### Next steps

Once you have read and understood this letter, the questions and answers document and deed, your data broker will assist you with gathering the relevant information and completing the required documents. Once complete, your data broker will work with you to gain access to your soil data, complete a qualitative survey, and enter into a commercial arrangement to facilitate a financial payment to you once your data is accepted by the program.

Thank you for your participation.

For more information:

Email [historical.soil.data@environment.gov.au](mailto:historical.soil.data@environment.gov.au)

Web [awe.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/natural-resources/soils/historical-soil-data](http://awe.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/natural-resources/soils/historical-soil-data)