



Questions and answers

Historical Soil Data Capture Payments Program

May 2022

What do I need to do to participate in the program?

Data brokers will help you understand the program requirements and what you need to provide. You will be asked to: share your soil data and if required, any contextual information or details; complete the Data Sharing Deed and qualitative survey; and enter a commercial arrangement with the data broker to receive payment.

What happens to my soil data after I agree to share it with a data broker?

The data broker will input and store your soil data on their database. Data brokers will review, translate and transform data, as well as conduct quality checks and audits to ensure data is consistent and aligns with required formats and standards.

Once the transformation and review processes are complete, your soil data will be shared with the Australian Government's nominated database and consolidated with other historical soil data collected through the program. Data will then be reviewed to determine that it meets program requirements.

Soil data collected through the program will be made available to the Australian National Soil Information System (ANSIS), a national soil data information system being developed and managed by the CSIRO. Further information about ANSIS can be found at:

<https://www.csiro.au/en/research/natural-environment/land/soil/ansis>.

What will my historical soil data be used for?

Your soil data will contribute to furthering our national understanding of Australia's soil through being made available through ANSIS. Soil data may be used to better understand soil health and trends, support soil research and assist with soil policy development. By sharing your data, you will be increasing the amount of data available to farmers, policy makers, researchers and others to conduct benchmarking exercises, better understand soil health and trends, and encourage better decision making into the future.

Please see the deed for more information on how soil data may be used. Precluded purposes are listed in the deed and your soil data will not be used for any regulatory, compliance or prosecution purposes. Your consent will be sought before soil data is used for other purposes not specified in the deed.

Will my personal information be publicly accessible?

No. Personal information (name and contact details) collected through this program will not be uploaded with or linked to the soil data on ANSIS. Personal information is collected for the purpose of the department verifying your eligibility, program administration and other related purposes.

Soil data georeferencing information is collected to provide the exact location of data points to ensure your data can be used for research and other related purposes. Soil data with exact georeferencing information may be accessed and used through ANSIS by specific users for a purpose approved by the government.

The government seeks to protect your anonymity by restricting public access to soil information products by aggregating georeferenced data. You consent to sharing the georeferencing information of your soil data with specific users who request this data for approved purposes when you sign the deed.

What does “aggregated” mean and how will my soil data be made available?

“Aggregated data” in the context of this program is data undergone processes resulting in the specific soil data locations being inaccessible. Some examples of aggregation processes include creating simple spatial summaries across regions, modelling and mapping national soil properties or through combining historic soil data with other soil datasets. The aggregated products created by these processes will be made publicly available.

Individual users may request access to historic soil data shared with the program for purposes approved by the government including research, decision making, and future policy development. If approved, users are subject to a use agreement which sets out the terms and conditions when accessing unaggregated, georeferenced soil data (including not releasing unaggregated data), for the approved purposes.

What are my rights to my historical soil data once it is shared with the program?

You will retain ownership of any soil data shared with the program. A signed deed licences to the data broker, and via sublicense to the government, permission to access, store, use and further sublicense your soil test data in accordance with the terms outlined within the deed.

How long will the Australian Government have access to my soil data?

Once the deed is executed you will not be able to terminate the licensing arrangement. Soil data shared with the program will be retained indefinitely in the government’s nominated database to support future research and soil related policy development. Please see the data sharing deed for further information on the licensing arrangements.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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