

Australian Soil Information Symposium

16-17 April 2012, Sydney, New South Wales



Connecting people with the soil information future

Day one

0900 Introduction and welcome

Session 1

0910–1030

Context and inspiration
Chair: Richard MacEwan

An authoritative perspective on the emerging needs for soil information across Australia – the immediate demands and the complex and urgent future

Keynote speakers

Our national responsibility to know and manage our soils

Ms Penelope Wensley, AC
Governor of Queensland and Patron of Soil Science Australia

The role of soil information in the issues of our time

Neil McKenzie
Chief, CSIRO Land & Water

Building future industries on healthier soils

Alexandra Gartmann
CEO, Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal

Morning Tea
1030–1100

Session 2

1100–1230

National & Global imperatives
Chair: Mike Grundy

Comprehensive soil information is vital to integrate soil into the complex issues of the future such as managing the soil's complex role in climate, resolving the land use tradeoffs and maintaining landscape function as we demand more of our soils

A global soil language?

The US experience in building a future-proof soil information system

John Hempel
Director, National Soil Survey Center, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Soils and land use trade-off analysis; can we guide our choices and options?

Brett Bryan
CSIRO Integrated Carbon Pathways project

Climate Change, Biomass and Erosion Risk – a South Australian case study

James Hall
Principal Soil Scientist, Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources, SA

Lunch 1230–1330

Session 3

1330–1500

Industry Solutions
Chair: Michele Barson

This section explores case studies of the use of soil information at the state/regional level

Strategic cropping lands in QLD – an information response to a complex land management issue

Paul Lawrence
Director, Land and Vegetation Science, Qld Dept Environment and Resource Management

Wealth from water Tasmania – digital soil mapping providing the focus

Darren Kidd
Dept. of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania

Ord Stage 2, East Kimberley. Resource risk assessment and irrigation development in the tropics

Noel Schoknecht
Science Leader, Soils, Dept. of Agriculture and Food, WA

Afternoon Tea
1500–1530

Session 4

1530–1700

On the farm
Chair: Noel Schoknecht

This section explores case studies on the use of soil information at the farm and paddock scale and ends with the promise that smart phones connected to soil information will revolutionise the information flow

Precision Agriculture – the finest scale of digital soil mapping

Alex McBratney – Prof Soil Science, University of Sydney

Building soil carbon on farms – an information challenge and opportunity

Jeff Baldock
CSIRO Sustainable Agriculture Flagship, National Soil Carbon Research Program

Soil Apps – Connecting Smart Phones, paddocks and soil information (Interactive exercise)

Neal Dalgleish
CSIRO Sustainable Agriculture Flagship, Soil water in Australian agriculture project

Soil acidity – pH monitoring and agricultural profitability

Chris Gazey
Senior Research Officer, Dept. of Agriculture and Food, WA

Evening Reception
Venue and time to be confirmed

Day two

Session 5

0900–1030

Australia's soil information pool

Chair: Martin Blumenthal

This section will demonstrate what soil information is out there and how to access it – and will illustrate the best, the gaps and the opportunities

The National stock (ASRIS, National Soil Archive, NATSOILS, TERN Soils) – the strengths, weaknesses, the gaps and the needs

Peter Wilson

CSIRO, Manager National Soil Information

A view across the primary custodians – the State and Territory agencies – the stock, the trends and the future

Blair Wood

Consultant

Morning Tea
1030–1100

Session 6

1100–1230

National soil information strategy – Exploring our future

Chair: Ian Thompson/
Michele Barson

A proposed National Soils Research, Development and Extension strategy has been scoping the future needs for soil information – and has identified real and immediate challenges. The roadmap for Australia's Research Infrastructure, the Bureau of Meteorology Australian Government Data needs report, the ASRIS Users' needs report reinforce this call – and the move towards multi-functional landscapes implied in the Land Sector package and the Australian Governments' Clean Energy Future plan illustrate the potential transformative power, better soil information can have for Australia. This section will start with a précis of these developments and lead to a facilitated discussion on what this means for soil information improvement.

Lunch 1230–1330

Session 7

1330–1530

The meeting responds

Q&A style open forum taking questions and building support for better soils information and how that may be achieved. It will include an open exploration of the engagement of industry, government and the community in the process. The session will conclude with a list of options and recommendations designed for industry RDCs, community groups and state and federal government agencies.

Afternoon Tea
1500–1530

Session 8

1600–1700

The next steps

Development of an action plan based on the meeting's activities and recommendations.

Interactive activities throughout the symposium

The Northern Australia land and water study – riches and famine in soil information

Jason Hill

Manager, Soil Survey, Northern Territory

Soil Apps – Connecting Smart Phones, paddocks and soil information

Neal Dalglish

CSIRO Sustainable Agriculture Flagship, Soil water in Australian agriculture project

Visualising soils – online tools to communicate soils information

Mark Imhof

Research Manager – Soil Sciences, Dept. of Primary Industries, Vic

SoilWatch – Monitoring and guiding better land management

Sally McInnes Clarke

Soil Scientist, Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW

The Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS)

David Jacquier

ASRIS Manager, CSIRO Land and Water

