

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

National Committee on Soil and Terrain

25 November 2009

Thank you for your submission on *Managing Australia's Soils: A policy discussion paper*. A total of 101 submissions were received from a wide variety of stakeholders, providing a comprehensive assessment of current soil management issues and possible directions for future action.

In the submissions there was overwhelming support for a more strategic approach to soil management in Australia and key areas of improvement related to data and information, research and development, extension, training and skills and communication and awareness.

A summary of the submissions was recently considered by the Natural Resource Management Standing Committee, represented by all Senior Executives from the Australian government and state and territory agencies. A copy of the Executive Summary of this report is attached and the full report is available on the Australian Collaborative Land Evaluation Program (ACLEP) website at <http://www.clw.csiro.au/aclep/>.

The Natural Resource Management Standing Committee has agreed to respond to the public consultation outcomes by adopting a strategic approach to soil management through improved policy alignment and coordination, and exploring opportunities for multi-jurisdictional action. Further action will now be progressed in three priority areas:

- Research and development
- Soils assessment, information and data
- Extension programs, including linkages to the National Primary Industries Research and Development and Extension framework.

A sustainable future for Australia depends on our collective effort to appropriately manage Australia's soils and I hope you will continue to be involved in the future work that will manage this important national asset.

Updates on the development of the workplan and involvement of stakeholders will be provided on the ACLEP website or through direct contact. For further information please do not hesitate to contact me or the Secretariat.

Yours sincerely



Noel Schoknecht
Chair, National Committee on Soil and Terrain

Chair

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