

Partnering to Implement the National Soil Action Plan 2023-28 Program

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – ENVIRONMENT

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2028.
Purpose	<p>This Schedule will support the delivery of two projects under the Partnering to Implement the National Soil Action Plan 2023-28 program in the Australian Capital Territory:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Soil Champions – coaching and mentoring program: to train up to 15 ACT farmers and 8 ACT Government and Landcare Staff to become future soil coaches through peer-to-peer mentoring, and facilitate up to 15 ACT farmers to move to regenerative agricultural practices. The project will focus on improvement to soil biology and soil structure, allowing greater air porosity and water permeability, and include collection of soil data to help guide best practice management and future investment in soils. The program will be a pilot for adoption of better land management practices that can be replicated in future years of the National Soil Action Plan in the ACT and other areas. b. Landscape Rehydration and Soil Health across ACT Parks and Urban Spaces program: to re-establish hydrological capacity in soils and restore natural soil functions in ACT catchments by increasing the number of public land managers adopting regenerative land management practices. The project will focus on improvement to soil biology and soil structure, allowing greater air porosity and water permeability, through extension, field days and workshops that demonstrate best practice techniques and provide skill development. <p>Projects will contribute to progress on the action plan through clear, measurable commitments to localised action. They will deliver on priority actions 3 and 4 of the action plan, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate the adoption of land use and management practices that protect soils and improve soil state and trend

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and develop the soils workforce and capabilities needed to meet current and future challenges for Australia and the region. 																																			
<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the ACT of \$0.804 million in respect of this Schedule towards two projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$0.504m for Soil Champions – coaching and mentoring program \$0.300m for Landscape rehydration and soil health across ACT Parks and urban spaces program. <hr/> <p>Table 1</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>(\$ million)</th> <th>2023-24</th> <th>2024-25</th> <th>2025-26</th> <th>2026-27</th> <th>2027-28</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Estimated total budget</td> <td>-</td> <td>0.251</td> <td>0.332</td> <td>0.335</td> <td>0.340</td> <td>1.258</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i></td> <td>-</td> <td>0.151</td> <td>0.215</td> <td>0.218</td> <td>0.220</td> <td>0.804</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Australian Capital Territory</td> <td>-</td> <td>0.151</td> <td>0.215</td> <td>0.218</td> <td>0.220</td> <td>0.804</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</td> <td>-</td> <td>0.100</td> <td>0.117</td> <td>0.117</td> <td>0.120</td> <td>0.454</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	(\$ million)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total	Estimated total budget	-	0.251	0.332	0.335	0.340	1.258	<i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i>	-	0.151	0.215	0.218	0.220	0.804	- Australian Capital Territory	-	0.151	0.215	0.218	0.220	0.804	Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	-	0.100	0.117	0.117	0.120	0.454
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<p>Additional terms</p>	<p><i>Financial contributions</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ACT are responsible for providing a financial and/or in-kind contribution equal to or greater than \$0.454m to support the activities outlined in this Schedule. <p><i>Project Plans</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT government will be responsible for delivering the two projects in accordance with project plans, which may be agreed between senior Commonwealth and ACT officials. Should the plans need to be varied over time to accommodate changed circumstances, variations that directly affect the outputs and timeframes for the project are subject to written agreement between senior Commonwealth and ACT officials. <p><i>Data accessibility</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT must obtain for the Commonwealth a permanent, irrevocable, royalty-free, licence fee-free, world-wide, non-exclusive licence (including a right to sub-licence) to collect, use, interrogate, reproduce, modify, adapt, publish, perform, broadcast, communicate, distribute, commercialise and exploit the Intellectual Property Rights in Soil Data for a Commonwealth Purpose. 																																			

5. In this clause 4:

a. Commonwealth Purpose means:

- i. using Soil Data for any purpose connected to the Commonwealth's policies for valuing, managing and improving Australia's soil assets;
- ii. accessing and using of georeferencing information contained in that Soil Data for government and non-government research and policy development;
- iii. uploading that Soil Data to a managed database and made available to the Australian National Soil Information System or any successor or related database; and
- iv. combining the Soil Data with any third-party data to form an aggregate database which is licenced to third parties.

b. Intellectual Property Rights means any intellectual property rights, whether registered or unregistered and includes copyright, designs, patents, trademarks, semi-conductor and circuit layout rights.

c. Soil Data includes:

- i. the soil test data from the soil testing undertaken by a person;
- ii. the georeferencing information relevant to the tested soil samples; and
- iii. any other data, and/or qualitative or contextual information collected from the landholder relevant to the tested soil samples.

Table 2: ACT - Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
1. Soil Champions – coaching and mentoring program	1.1 Delivery and acceptance of a project plan – which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the project scope • desired project outcomes • a project budget • planned activities (including engagement/communications) and schedule for delivery • key stakeholders/partners and their responsibilities • how performance will be monitored and evaluated (including performance measures) • list of any intellectual property that will be used in the project • governance arrangements • risk management. 	30/08/2024	\$0.126m
	1.2 Progress report 1 – delivery and acceptance of a report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the project plan. Progress reports should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • progress against activities in the project plan • key achievements • key risks and mitigations • an outline of activities to be commenced in the next reporting period. 	01/07/2025	\$0.126m
	1.3 Progress report 2 – delivery and acceptance of a report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the project plan. Progress reports should include the components as outlined for progress report 1.	01/07/2026	\$0.126m
	1.4 Progress report 3 – delivery and acceptance of a report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the project plan. Progress reports should include the components as outlined for progress report 1.	01/07/2027	\$0.063m
	1.5 Delivery and acceptance of a final report – which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an outline of all activities undertaken • description of achievements and impacts from the project (including key research findings where relevant) • evaluation of the project against the desired outcomes, National Action Plan Priority Actions and performance measures, including learnings and recommendations 	15/05/2028	\$0.063m

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • list of any intellectual property created as part of the project • summary of project engagement/communications and/or extension materials produced • a financial report which summarises expenditure throughout the program. 		
	Sub-total		\$0.504m
2. Landscape rehydration and soil health across ACT Parks and urban spaces program	2.1 Delivery and acceptance of a project plan – which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the project scope • desired project outcomes • a project budget • planned activities (including engagement/communications) and schedule for delivery • key stakeholders/partners and their responsibilities • how performance will be monitored and evaluated (including performance measures) • list of any intellectual property that will be used in the project • governance arrangements • risk management. 	30/08/2024	\$0.025m
	2.2 Progress report 1 – delivery and acceptance of a report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the project plan. Progress reports should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • progress against activities in the project plan • key achievements • key risks and mitigations • an outline of activities to be commenced in the next reporting period. 	01/07/2025	\$0.089m
	2.3 Progress report 2 – delivery and acceptance of a report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the project plan. Progress reports should include the components as outlined for progress report 1.	01/07/2026	\$0.092m
	2.4 Progress report 3 – delivery and acceptance of a report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the project plan. Progress reports should include the components as outlined for progress report 1.	01/07/2027	\$0.049m
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • list of any intellectual property created as part of the project • summary of project engagement/communications and/or extension materials produced • a financial report which summarises expenditure throughout the program. 		
	Sub-total		\$0.300m
	TOTAL		\$0.804m

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by*



Senator The Honourable Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Minister signed on: 20 May 2024

*Signed for and on behalf of the Territory of the
Australian Capital Territory by*



Rebecca Vassarotti MLA
Minister for the Environment, Parks and Land
Management

Minister signed on: 12 June 2024