

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

## FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT - ENVIRONMENT

<b>Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule</b>	
Parties	Commonwealth Northern Territory (NT)
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2028.
Purpose	<p>This Schedule will support the delivery of three projects under the Partnering to Implement the National Soil Action Plan 2023-28 program in the Northern Territory:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Developing a Northern Territory Agricultural Soil and Land Management Manual: to create a 'go to' manual for land managers, new investors, researchers and agronomists through combining recently published soil data and information with land manager and industry knowledge.</li> <li>b. Developing sustainable pastoral carrying capacities for improved land management practices and soil condition across the Territory's rangelands: to collect and integrate soil information with pasture growth models and land resource mapping to estimate carrying capacities for pastoral leases and Aboriginal Land Trusts (with an initial focus on the Victoria River District). A reference guide containing information on important pastoral soils will also be produced.</li> <li>c. Developing soil knowledge capacity in northern Australia: to train and mentor graduates exposing them to all aspects of soil investigation and survey: soil survey planning, remote area field programs (characterising and testing up to 200 soil profiles), synthesising data and presenting and publishing new land resource information and mapping products.</li> </ol> <p>Projects will contribute to progress on the action plan through clear, measurable commitments to localised action. They will deliver on priority actions 2, 3 and 4 of the action plan, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner to develop a holistic policy and strategy approach where soil function is recognised, valued, and protected for the environment, economy, food, infrastructure, health, biodiversity, and communities.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accelerate the adoption of land use and management practices that protect soil and improve soil state and trend.</li> <li>Identify and develop the soil workforce and capabilities needed to meet current and future challenges for Australia and the region.</li> </ul>																																			
<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the Northern Territory of \$2.290m in respect of this Schedule towards three projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$0.825m for Developing a Northern Territory Agricultural Soil and Land Management Manual</li> <li>\$1.055 for Developing sustainable pastoral carrying capacities for improved land management practices and soil condition across the Territory's rangelands</li> <li>\$0.410 for Developing Soil Knowledge Capacity in Northern Australia</li> </ul> <table border="1" data-bbox="422 896 1372 1310"> <thead> <tr> <th>Table 1 (\$ million)</th> <th>2023-24</th> <th>2024-25</th> <th>2025-26</th> <th>2026-27</th> <th>2027-28</th> <th>Total<sup>1</sup></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Estimated total budget<sup>1</sup></b></td> <td>-</td> <td>1.286</td> <td>0.831</td> <td>1.128</td> <td>0.604</td> <td>3.849</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i></td> <td>-</td> <td>0.909</td> <td>0.454</td> <td>0.652</td> <td>0.275</td> <td>2.290</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Northern Territory</td> <td>-</td> <td>0.909</td> <td>0.454</td> <td>0.652</td> <td>0.275</td> <td>2.290</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions<sup>2</sup></td> <td>-</td> <td>0.377</td> <td>0.377</td> <td>0.476</td> <td>0.329</td> <td>1.559</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note 1: Totals may not add up exactly due to rounding.  Note 2: This includes the expected NT contribution plus NT-sourced co-contributions from delivery partners – see additional term 1.</p>	Table 1 (\$ million)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total <sup>1</sup>	<b>Estimated total budget<sup>1</sup></b>	-	1.286	0.831	1.128	0.604	3.849	<i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i>	-	0.909	0.454	0.652	0.275	2.290	- Northern Territory	-	0.909	0.454	0.652	0.275	2.290	Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions <sup>2</sup>	-	0.377	0.377	0.476	0.329	1.559
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<p>Additional terms</p>	<p><i>Financial contributions</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Northern Territory are responsible for providing a financial and/or in-kind contribution equal to or greater than \$1.464m to support the activities outlined in this Schedule. NT has also sourced co-contributions from delivery partners of \$0.095m for the project.</li> </ol> <p><i>Project Plans</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Northern Territory government will be responsible for delivering the three projects in accordance with project plans, which may be agreed between senior Commonwealth and NT officials.</li> <li>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</li> </ol>																																			



between senior Commonwealth and NT officials.

*Data accessibility*

4. The Northern Territory 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: NT - Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary**

Output	Performance milestones <sup>1</sup>	Report due	Payment
1. Developing a Northern Territory Agricultural Soil and Land Management Manual	1.1 Delivery and acceptance of a project plan – which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the project scope</li> <li>• desired project outcomes</li> <li>• a project budget</li> <li>• planned activities (including engagement/communications) and schedule for delivery</li> <li>• key stakeholders/partners and their responsibilities</li> <li>• how performance will be monitored and evaluated (including performance measures)</li> <li>• list of any intellectual property that will be used in the project</li> <li>• governance arrangements</li> <li>• risk management.</li> </ul>	30/08/2026	\$275,000
	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"> <li>• progress against activities in the project plan</li> <li>• key achievements</li> <li>• key risks and mitigations</li> <li>• an outline of activities to be commenced in the next reporting period.</li> </ul>	01/06/2027	\$275,000
	1.3 Delivery and acceptance of a final report – which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an outline of all activities undertaken</li> <li>• description of achievements and impacts from the project (including key research findings where relevant)</li> <li>• evaluation of the project against the desired outcomes, National Action Plan Priority Actions and performance measures, including learnings and recommendations</li> <li>• list of any intellectual property created as part of the project</li> <li>• summary of project engagement/communications and/or extension materials produced</li> <li>• a financial report which summarises expenditure throughout the program.</li> </ul>	01/06/2028	\$275,000
	<b>Sub-total</b>		

<sup>1</sup> All reporting milestones must be endorsed by a senior government official.



2. Developing sustainable pastoral carrying capacities for improved land management practices and soil condition across the Territory's rangelands	2.1 Delivery and acceptance of a project plan – which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the project scope</li> <li>• desired project outcomes</li> <li>• a project budget</li> <li>• planned activities (including engagement/communications) and schedule for delivery</li> <li>• key stakeholders/partners and their responsibilities</li> <li>• how performance will be monitored and evaluated (including performance measures)</li> <li>• list of any intellectual property that will be used in the project</li> <li>• governance arrangements</li> <li>• risk management.</li> </ul>	30/08/2024	\$351,000
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	<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>\$1,055,000</b>
3. Developing Soil Knowledge Capacity in Northern Australia	3.1 Delivery and acceptance of a project plan – which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the project scope</li> <li>• desired project outcomes</li> <li>• a project budget</li> <li>• planned activities (including engagement/communications) and schedule for delivery</li> <li>• key stakeholders/partners and their responsibilities</li> </ul>	30/08/2024	\$103,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how performance will be monitored and evaluated (including performance measures)</li> <li>• list of any intellectual property that will be used in the project</li> <li>• governance arrangements</li> <li>• risk management.</li> </ul>		
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	<p>3.3 Progress report 2 – delivery and acceptance of a report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the project plan. Progress reports should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• progress against activities in the project plan</li> <li>• key achievements</li> <li>• key risks and mitigations</li> <li>• an outline of activities to be commenced in the next reporting period</li> </ul>	01/06/2026	\$102,000
	<p>3.4 Delivery and acceptance of a final report – which should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an outline of all activities undertaken</li> <li>• description of achievements and impacts from the project (including key research findings where relevant)</li> <li>• evaluation of the project against the desired outcomes, National Action Plan Priority Actions and performance measures, including learnings and recommendations</li> <li>• list of any intellectual property created as part of the project</li> <li>• summary of project engagement/communications and/or extension materials produced</li> <li>• a financial report which summarises expenditure throughout the program.</li> </ul>	01/06/2027	\$102,000
	<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>\$410,000</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,290,000</b>

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

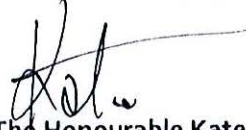
**Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth  
of Australia by**



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

26 / 6 / 2024

**Signed for and on behalf of the  
Northern Territory by**



**The Honourable Kate Worden MLA**  
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and  
Water Security

01/7 / 2024