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

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT - ENVIRONMENT

Parties	Commonwealth Queensland (QLD)
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2028.
Purpose	This Schedule will support the delivery of four projects under the Partnering to Implement the National Soil Action Plan 2023-28 program in Queensland:
	 a. Engagement of First Nations people and early career scientists to build capacity and incorporate traditional knowledge into the future of soils in Queensland: by accelerating the training and development of six graduate scientists (inc. at least two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders) in both western and traditional soil science. The project will increase the engagement of First Nations people by incorporating traditional knowledge into the training continuum, through products such as storyboards. b. Legacy data capture and training: by upskilling key organisations to collect quality soil data to enable entry into Queensland's Soil and Land Information (SALI) platform and for use by the
	Australian National Soil Information System. The project will also seek to establish a clear framework for the Queensland Government funded projects to ensure that soil data is collected to minimum standards.
	c. Mapping Queensland's soil carbon sequestration potential as a decision support tool for policy makers, land managers and investors in the National carbon market: by producing a free online decision support tool that maps the state's soil carbon sequestration potential and providing a transparent framework to assist decision making in carbon farming projects.
	d. Infrastructure and the critical zone - soil information tools for infrastructure development, maintenance and rehabilitation: by producing a range of spatial soil information as decision support tools for infrastructure development at the large linear

infrastructure scale and at the on-farm infrastructure scale to improve planning and the availability of soil data across Queensland.

Projects will contribute to progress on the action plan through clear, measurable commitments to localised action. They will provide significant contributions to facilitate the delivery of priority action 1, and deliver on priority actions 2, 3 and 4, of the action plan, namely:

- Develop an agreed national framework to support the measurement, monitoring, mapping, reporting and sharing of soil state and trend information to inform best practice management, decision-making and future investment in soil.
- 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.
- Accelerate the adoption of land use and management practices that protect soil and improve soil state and trend.
- Identify and develop the soil workforce and capabilities needed to meet current and future challenges for Australia and the region.

The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to Queensland of \$2.755m in respect of this Schedule towards four projects:

- \$1.100m for Engagement of First Nations people and early career scientists to build capacity and incorporate traditional knowledge into the future of soils in Queensland
- \$0.141m for Legacy Data Capture and Training
- \$1.129m for Mapping Queensland's Soil Carbon Sequestration Potential As A Decision Support Tool For Policy Makers, Land Managers And Investors In The National Carbon Market
- \$0.385m for Infrastructure and the critical zone: Soil information tools for infrastructure development, maintenance and rehabilitation.

Table 1 (\$ million)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total
Estimated total budget		1.421	1.455	0.785	0.129	3.790
Less estimated National Partnership Payments	-	1.024	1.054	0.548	0.129	2.755
- Queensland	-	1.024	1.054	0.548	0.129	2.755
Balance of non- Commonwealth contributions ¹	-	0.397	0.401	0.237	0.000	1.035

Note 1: This includes the expected QLD contribution plus QLD-sourced co-contributions from delivery partners – see additional term 1.

Additional terms

Financial contributions

 Queensland are responsible for providing a financial and/or in-kind contribution equal to or greater than \$0.672m to support the activities outlined in this Schedule. Queensland has also sourced cocontributions from delivery partners of \$0.363m for the project.

Project Plans

- 2. The Queensland government will be responsible for delivering the four projects in accordance with project plans, which may be agreed between senior Commonwealth and Queensland officials.
- 3. 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 Queensland officials.

Data accessibility

- 4. The State of Queensland 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.

Output	Performance milestones ¹	Report due	Payment
Engagement of First Nations people and early career scientists to build capacity and incorporate traditional knowledge into the future of soils in Queensland	 1.1 Delivery and acceptance of a project plan – which should include: 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	\$170,250
	 1.2 Progress report 1 – delivery and acceptance of a report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the project plan. Progress reports should include: 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. 	01/06/2025	\$170,25
	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.	01/06/2026	\$470,50

 $^{^{\}rm 1}\,{\rm All}$ reporting milestones must be endorsed by a senior government official.

	 1.4 Delivery and acceptance of a final report – which should include: 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 list of any intellectual property created as part of the project. summary of project engagement/communications and/or extension materials produced. 	01/06/2027	\$231,100
	 Delivery of the financial report (non-audited) for the 2024-2027 program covering: FFA funds received to 30/6/2027 Expenditure to 30/06/2027. 	01/09/2027	\$57,900
	Sub-total Sub-total		\$1,100,000.00
Legacy Data Capture and Training	 2.1 Delivery and acceptance of a project plan – which should include: 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	\$35,000
	 2.2 Progress report 1 – delivery and acceptance of a report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the project plan. Progress reports should include: 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. 	01/06/2025	\$35,000
	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.	01/06/2026	\$35,000

		 2.4 Delivery and acceptance of a final report – which should include: 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 list of any intellectual property created as part of the project summary of project engagement/communications and/or extension materials produced. 	01/06/2027	\$28,900
		 Delivery of the financial report (non-audited) for the 2024-2027 program covering: FFA funds received to 30/6/2027 Expenditure to 30/06/2027. 	01/09/2027	\$6,900
	All the same to be	Sub-total		\$140,800.00
3.	3. Mapping Queensland's Soil Carbon Sequestration Potential As A Decision Support Tool For Policy Makers, Land Managers And Investors In The National Carbon Market	 3.1 Delivery and acceptance of a project plan – which should include: 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	\$218,118
		 3.2 Progress report 1 – delivery and acceptance of a report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the project plan. Progress reports should include: 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. 	01/06/2025	\$155,620
		3.3 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.	01/06/2026	\$432,040

	3.4 Delivery and acceptance of a final report – which should include: 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 list of any intellectual property created as part of the project summary of project engagement/communications and/or extension materials produced.	01/06/2027	\$258,701
	 Delivery of the financial expenditure report (non-audited) for the 2024-2027 program covering: FFA funds received to 30/6/2027 Expenditure to 30/6/2027 	01/09/2027	\$64,675
	Sub-total		\$1,129,154.00
4. Infrastructure and the critical zone: Soil information tools for infrastructure development, maintenance and rehabilitation	 4.1 Delivery and acceptance of a project plan – which should include: 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	\$120,000
	 4.2 Progress report 1 – delivery and acceptance of a report demonstrating satisfactory progress against the project plan. Progress reports should include: 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. 	01/06/2025	\$120,000

	TOTAL		\$2,754,954.00
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	 4.4 Delivery of the financial report (non-audited) for the 2024-2026 program FFA funds received to 30/6/2026 Expenditure to 30 /06/2026. 	01/09/2026	\$29,000
	 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 list of any intellectual property created as part of the project summary of project engagement/communications and/or extension materials produced. 		
	 4-3 Delivery and acceptance of a final report – which should include: an outline of all activities undertaken 	01/06/2026	\$116,000

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

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Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland by

The Honourable Leanne Linard MP

Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation

23/09/2024