

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

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – ENVIRONMENT

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth Victoria (VIC)
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 September 2026.
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 Victoria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Soil biodiversity across landscapes: to understand the soil microbiome, populations and functions in agriculture and natural ecosystems to improve nutrient cycling, maintain or improve soil carbon, and support soil and landscape recovery and rehabilitation. b. Improving soil structure for resilient ecosystems: to increase drought resilience by accelerating and targeting management practice changes that improve soil structure and function across a range of industries. Improved soil structure will enable greater water storage for plants, reduce nutrient loss to the environment, and increase the potential to build soil carbon. <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and develop the soil 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 Victoria of approximately \$3.192m in respect of this Schedule towards two projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1.700m for Soil biodiversity across landscapes. \$1.492m for Improving soil structure for resilient ecosystems. <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>2.437</td> <td>2.834</td> <td>1.198</td> <td>-</td> <td>6.469</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i></td> <td>-</td> <td>0.798</td> <td>1.596</td> <td>0.798</td> <td>-</td> <td>3.192</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Victoria</td> <td>-</td> <td>0.798</td> <td>1.596</td> <td>0.798</td> <td>-</td> <td>3.192</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</td> <td>-</td> <td>1.639</td> <td>1.238</td> <td>0.400</td> <td>-</td> <td>3.277</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	(\$ million)	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total	Estimated total budget	-	2.437	2.834	1.198	-	6.469	<i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i>	-	0.798	1.596	0.798	-	3.192	- Victoria	-	0.798	1.596	0.798	-	3.192	Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	-	1.639	1.238	0.400	-	3.277
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<p>Additional terms</p>	<p><i>Financial contributions</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria are responsible for providing a financial and/or in-kind contribution equal to or greater than \$3.277m to support the activities outlined in this Schedule. <p><i>Project Plans</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Victorian government will be responsible for delivering the two projects in accordance with project plans, which may be agreed between senior Commonwealth and Victorian 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 Victorian officials. <p><i>Data accessibility</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The State of Victoria 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 and exploit the Intellectual Property Rights in Soil Data for a Commonwealth Purpose. In this clause 4: 																																			

	<p>a. Commonwealth Purpose means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">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; andiv. combining the Soil Data with any third-party data to form an aggregate database which is licenced to third parties. <p>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.</p> <p>c. Soil Data includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. the soil test data from the soil testing undertaken by a person;ii. the georeferencing information relevant to the tested soil samples; andiii. any other data, and/or qualitative or contextual information collected from the landholder relevant to the tested soil samples.
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Table 2: VIC - Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary			
Output	Performance milestones¹	Report due	Payment
1. Soil biodiversity across landscapes	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	\$424,913.50
	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. 	30/08/2025	\$849,827.00
	1.3 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 • 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. 	30/09/2026	\$424,913.50

¹ All reporting milestones must be endorsed by a senior government official.

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	Sub-total		\$1,699,654.00
2. Improving soil structure for resilient ecosystems	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	\$373,078.50
	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. 	30/08/2025	\$746,157.00
	2.3 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 • 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. 	30/09/2026	\$373,078.50
	Sub-total		\$1,492,314.00
	TOTAL		\$3,191,968.00

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

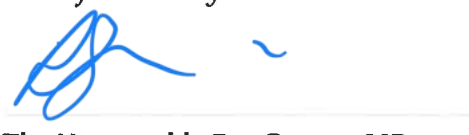
Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
of Australia by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Julie Collins', written over a horizontal line. A small black dot is located to the right of the signature.

The Honourable Julie Collins MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

27/9/2024

Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Victoria by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ros Spence', written over a horizontal line.

The Honourable Ros Spence MP
Minister for Agriculture

25/10/2024