

24 April 2019

Riverina to host soil and water science gathering

Some of the nation's most respected soil scientists will descend on the Wagga Wagga region for a two day mini-conference exploring key issues relating to local land and water management.

Hosted by Soil Science Australia's Riverina and New South Wales Branches, the workshops and presentations will cover topics from the social aspects of managing soils to environmental water flows, sub-surface acidity and soil pH.

"There is no doubt that water, or the lack of it, is front of mind for everyone in the Riverina, particularly at the moment," said Sam North, President, Soil Science Australia's Riverina Branch. "Yet soil is our most precious but undervalued, natural asset.

"Evidence-based land care is absolutely central to managing the water we have now, and in the future, and to promoting successful sustainable agricultural systems across this region," he said.

The mini-conference will combine expert presentations, poster viewings and a field trip to examine different soil pits and profiles around Wagga Wagga. Around 60 soil science professionals are expected to attend the 2-day event from 2 to 3 May.

"Soil science not only provides new knowledge to enhance sustainable land and water management, but it also validates the insights and results experienced firsthand by those living and working on farm," said Mr North.

"Ultimately, we all want to make a difference to the productive capacity of our soils, whether that be from a research laboratory, through policy reform and regulatory change or out in the field.

"Bringing soil science students, consultants, academics and farmers together for an intensive workshop will create a greater understanding of the unique soil challenges of the Riverina and will help us all develop a more collaborative approach to best practice soils management going forward," Mr North said.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Soil pit at Wagga Agricultural Research Institute
Thursday 2 May at 12pm

ABOUT SOIL SCIENCE AUSTRALIA

Soil Science Australia is the non-governmental peak body for soils and soil scientists across Australia.

ABOUT RIVERINA SOILS

The Riverina covers the alluvial fans of the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers west of the Great Dividing Range and extends down the Murray. The upper catchment landscape is a series of overlapping, low gradient alluvial fans. The lower tract of the river is a floodplain with overflow lakes. Discharge from past and present streams control patterns of sediment deposition, soils, landscapes and vegetation.

[NSW Office of Environment and Heritage](#)

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