

The NCST is a collaborative committee comprising Australian and State government agencies with a lead role in soil and land resource assessment and reporting. It is a Standing Committee for the [Australian Soil Network](#) (ASN), the implementation committee for the [National Soil RD&E Strategy](#), and advises the [Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network](#) (TERN) Landscapes platform. Our vision is to improve access to, and quality of, soil and land resource information to help secure the nation's soils and landscapes for productive and profitable industries, healthy ecosystems and sustainable communities

### Through the Australian Collaborative Land Evaluation Program (ACLEP), the NCST works to achieve the following outcomes:

<p><b>1. Data and infrastructure that meets current and future needs</b></p>	<p><b>2. Contemporary national standards and approaches - building a capable community of practitioners</b></p>	<p><b>3. Accessible and fit-for-purpose information products supporting decision making</b></p>	<p><b>4. Coordinated and consistent technical advice to government</b></p>	<p><b>5. Greater recognition of soils (nature, distribution &amp; status) as a fundamental ecosystem service provider and strategic national asset</b></p>
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### Through the following activities:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a national network to support collaboration and effective mobilisation of resources for strategic land resource assessment</li> <li>• Share new approaches in land resource assessment</li> <li>• Develop, govern and deliver national soil standards and guidelines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support delivery of national soil information infrastructure</li> <li>• Convene technical working groups</li> <li>• Provide coordinated national technical advice (e.g. ASN, <a href="#">Soil CRC</a>, TERN &amp; <a href="#">National Landcare program (NLP)</a>)</li> <li>• Develop partnerships with key state, national and international initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the use of standards and guidelines</li> <li>• Facilitate capability development between agencies</li> <li>• Support training and skills development</li> </ul>
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**Opportunities:** steer strategic land use planning; national reporting; manage soil in changing climates; soil security and ecosystem services; valuing natural capital; regional development; soil health and Carbon measurement and accounting.

**Risks and Challenges:** resources and capacity of jurisdictions and lack of community acknowledgement of soil as a critical national issue.

# NCST NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON SOIL AND TERRAIN

## Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025



Planning,  
Industry &  
Environment



Jobs,  
Precincts  
and Regions



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture  
ABARES



Government of South Australia  
Department for Environment  
and Water



Australian Government  
Geoscience Australia



Our Outcomes	Our Strategic Objectives
Data and infrastructure that meets current and future needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead development of National Soil Information proposals for the Australian Soil Network (ASN)</li> <li>• Compile national soil datasets</li> </ul>
Contemporary national standards and approaches build a capable community of practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and update key national technical standards (<a href="#">Australian Soil Classification</a> and <a href="#">Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook</a>)</li> <li>• Develop standards for Digital Soil Assessment</li> </ul>
Information products are accessible and fit-for-purpose to support decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop new nationwide soil products</li> <li>• Develop seasonal and long-term climate related predictions for soil related risks</li> </ul>
Coordinated and consistent technical advice to government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act as an Advisory Board for the TERN Landscapes facility</li> <li>• Provide input to the design of national initiatives such as the NLP</li> <li>• Build and maintain links with Soil CRC, <a href="#">Soil Science Australia</a> and the <a href="#">UN Global Soil Partnership</a></li> </ul>
Greater recognition of soil as a fundamental ecosystem service provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Australian Soil Network (ASN) and Soil Science Australia to promote the importance of soils</li> <li>• Promote the concept of a national soil account as part of the national environmental economic accounts.</li> </ul>