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**NCST** NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
ON SOIL AND TERRAIN

## Operational Plan 2020-2021

September 2020

## NCST Operational Plan 2020-21

Under the five goals of the National Soil RD&E Strategy, the committee will support the activities of the Australian Soil Network through the following;

	<i>Proposed work for 2020/21</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
	<p><b>Collaborate with Soil Science Australia (SSA)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilise the SSA website as a home for NCST information (ToR, Strategic Plan and other related information)</li> <li>• Maintain close collaboration on standards such as soil classification and field assessment guidelines</li> <li>• Provide NCST updates to SSA Federal Executive meetings</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Continue to coordinate the following NCST Working Groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Soil Classification (ASC)</li>   <li>• Digital Soil Assessment (DSA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise the new 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the ASC</li> <li>• Adopt publication options</li> <li>• Negotiate funding with CSIRO Publishing for editing</li> <li>• Seek funding via the ASN to develop a new freely available ASC interactive key</li> <li>• In collaboration with SSA, release the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition at the Soil Science Australia and the New Zealand Society of Soil Science Joint Conference in June 2021</li>   <li>• Submit digital soil mapping scientific papers from the Stradbroke Island workshop for publishing in the Geoderma Journal</li>   <li>• Arrange a national workshop to assist Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN) develop new national soil</li> </ul>

	<i>Proposed work for 2020/21</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook</li> </ul> <p><b>Support the development of national soil information</b></p> <p><b>Provide input and advice to major national research programs</b></p>	<p>landscape products, agency updates and review new national covariate layers, SoilDataFederator and new script codes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In collaboration with working group members begin reviewing each chapter of the field handbook. Establish priority tasks and align changes with the ASC, explore new formats for publication and communicate changes via SSA website</li> <li>• Develop a plan to engage with the vegetation ecology community regarding a review of the vegetation chapter</li> <li>• Through representation on ASN Working Group 2, continue to progress the development of National Soil Information.</li> <li>• Seek endorsement and funding from the ASN for Stage 1</li> <li>• Continue to advise the TERN Soil and Landscape Facility on national soil and landscape technical and scientific matters</li> <li>• As required, provide the Soil CRC with data and information currently held by the relevant member organisations</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Other Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review of the NCST Strategic Plan</li> </ul>	<p>Review <i>NCST Strategic Plan 2020-2025</i></p>

	<i>Proposed work for 2020/21</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an annual work plan</li> <li>• Provide NCST updates to the ASN</li> <li>• Communicate NCST information via the SSA website</li> </ul>	<p>Finalise 2020-21 <i>NCST Work Plan</i> and provide to the ASN for endorsement</p> <p>Update the ASN on NCST activities as required</p> <p>Update the SSA website with current versions of NCST activities (ie. ToR, strategic plan and workplans &amp; factsheets)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional development and capacity building</li> </ul>	<p>Continue to identify capacity building opportunities for NCST agencies and their staff</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve information the NCST and its member agencies provide to land managers, students and extension officers and interested public</li> </ul>	<p>Assist SSA with soil training courses by providing links to soil information websites across the various jurisdictions</p>

## NCST Reporting Arrangements

Reporting arrangements for the NCST, including current working groups are presented below.

