



# **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

# **ONGOING PhD SCHOLARSHIPS**

## **Guidelines**

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## BACKGROUND

The Soil CRC supports PhD students by allowing for student places to be funded either through research projects or through special rounds of PhD projects. These projects benefit the Australian agricultural industry by increasing innovation and applied research outcomes.

## EOI FOR PHD SCHOLARSHIPS - THE ONGOING OFFER

The Soil CRC is offering a new process whereby Participant University supervisors can submit a PhD project proposal at any time, *provided they already have an acceptable student identified who can commence within three to six months of receiving approval.*

Although the EOIs are ongoing, EOIs submitted will only be assessed four times a year.

Research projects undertaken by PhD students are conducted on industry focused projects seeking to address key technical soil related challenges facing the industry.

## SCHOLARSHIP PROVISIONS

1. Student stipend\* - there are three types available.

Full Stipend:	\$30,000 per year
Half Stipend	\$15,000 per year
Top-Up Stipend	\$7,500 per year

\*Student will only be funded for a period of maximum **three years**, with potential to request an extension of 0.5 years, subject to need to extend being satisfactorily justified.

2. Funding for project costs - provisions for project operating expenses and travel can be requested. No limits have been set for operational and travel budgets. As Proposals will be assessed on budgets and value for money, budget formation should be considered prudently. Project proponents are encouraged to identify potential additional sources of funding and discuss these with the Program Leader.
3. Membership to the Soil CRC Cohort – students will be provided with additional training opportunities and access to networking events.
4. Attendance to the Annual Soil CRC Conference – students will have travel costs covered to attend the annual Soil CRC Conference. This is in addition to project costs.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This is an **open ongoing call** for PhD student research projects from **all research disciplines and industry sectors**. EOIs must be submitted by one of the eight university Participants of the Soil CRC, but partners can include other Soil CRC Participants.

For an EOI to be eligible, it must:

- Have an acceptable student identified who can commence within three to six months of receiving approval.
- Demonstrate that the proposed student is currently in Australia (can be either a domestic or international student).

- Align with and contribute towards completion of relevant and timely Soil CRC Commonwealth Milestones (activities) (i.e. students must undertake research relevant to one or more of the four CRC programs and their specific outputs, and where appropriate, could align with an existing project).
- Have been discussed and developed in consultation with the relevant Program Leader.
- Be completed in full.
- For each student, at minimum, a primary supervisor and organisation must be identified in the proposal.
- Not include restricted budget items; and
- Include a commitment of in-kind contributions from Participants. This should include supervision time from all CRC supervisors.
- The successful student is to be enrolled as a PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) scholar in one of the eight Soil CRC Participants universities.
  - Charles Sturt University;
  - Federation University Australia;
  - Griffith University;
  - Murdoch University;
  - Southern Cross University;
  - The University of Newcastle;
  - University of Southern Queensland; or
  - University of Tasmania.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

Interested supervisors are required to submit a completed Expression of Interest (EOI) Form to the Soil CRC. Email [projects@soilcra.com.au](mailto:projects@soilcra.com.au) to register your interest and obtain further instructions.

## WHEN WILL THE EOIS BE ASSESSED?

EOIs will be assessed four times a year during January, February, July and September.

Announcements of due dates will be made via the CEO communiques and be made available on the Soil CRC website under the members section.

## ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND CRITERIA

*There is no obligation by the Soil CRC to make an investment against all and every one of the Soil CRC programs identified in this document. The Soil CRC reserves the right to not invest in some areas, and/or to refer proposals to a subsequent investment round for consideration.*

## Assessment Process Overview

The Soil CRC Board decides which proposals to invest in. EOIs are assessed by the Research and Adoption Committee (RAC) which makes recommendations to the Board for consideration. For each proposal, Program Leaders indicate to the RAC the extent of alignment with and anticipated contribution towards the Outputs of the relevant Programs (activities).

Before assessment commences, EOIs are checked for completeness and compliance with funding rules by the Soil CRC administration office.

The RAC assesses all EOIs and makes recommendations to the Board based on the assessment criteria detailed in these Call guidelines.

All EOIs and the RAC recommendations are forwarded to the Board who review all of the information presented and decide which ones will be funded (if any). Some EOIs may be funded subject to changes such as reduced scope or budget, as directed by the Board.

## Research and Adoption Committee (RAC)

The RAC is appointed by the Soil CRC Board, and comprises three members of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer, two distinguished national researchers, one distinguished international researcher and three end-users.

## Assessment Criteria and Rankings

Proposals will be assessed and ranked on the following criteria:

### **1. Alignment with CRC Programs and Outputs**

Proposals must contribute to the Programs and Outputs of the Soil CRC.

### **2. Potential impact and benefit of research**

Proposals will be assessed for their expected scientific benefit and for their potential industry impact.

### **3. Extent of collaboration (i.e. cross-university supervision)**

Proposals that identify co-supervisors from other Participant universities or research organisations will be rated higher on this criterion.

### **4. Extent of end-user engagement (e.g. fieldwork with a grower group)**

Proposals that identify engagement with end-users will be rated higher on this criterion. Examples of this include placing a student with a grower group for a period of time to undertake field work or other activities, or participation by industry or end-user representatives on an advisory group etc.

### **5. Supervisors' track record or potential of proposed supervisors**

Supervisors must identify a successful history of supervising PhD students, or alternatively, if an early or mid-career researcher, demonstrate a potential to be a successful PhD supervisor. Positive engagement of the proposed supervisors with the Soil CRC will also be rewarded under this criterion.

## 6. Cost

Lower priced proposals will generally be rated higher on this criterion, although the justification for the requested budget will also be taken into consideration. It must be noted that cost is just one criterion, and more expensive proposals may be supported if they are highly rated on the other criteria.

The RAC members individually assess and rank each proposal using these criteria and these individual rankings are then used as a basis for discussion and formation of recommendations when the RAC hold their meeting.

### Assessment Feedback

Principal Supervisors will be provided with feedback where relevant, from the CEO of the Soil CRC. Once the assessment process commences however, no updates or notifications will be provided until after the Soil CRC Board has held their meeting and decided on the outcome of all EOIs submitted. The notification dates are indicated in the Timeline.

### Unsuccessful EOIs

If an EOI is not recommended for funding, or deemed ineligible, notification and feedback will be made to the Principal Supervisor when announcements are made after the Board meeting.

### Successful EOIs

Once an EOI including budget is approved for funding, a Soil CRC Project Identification Number will be allocated. The Principal Supervisor will be required to prepare a full online proposal via SoilCentral.

Authorised representatives of all participating organisations will be required to sign a Project Agreement. Soil CRC cash funding of projects will not commence until the Project Agreement has been fully executed.

All PhD students are required to sign an Intellectual Property (IP) Deed Poll, and depending on the project specifications, some other Project Participants may also be required to sign as well. The IP Deed Poll template is available for viewing on the Members Login page of the Soil CRC website.

Upon Project Agreement execution, an initial Soil CRC cash payment will be made in advance. All subsequent payments will be made in arrears on the satisfactory completion of PhD project milestones and other indicators of research progress, including cash and in-kind reporting, subject to acceptance by the Management Team.

Unsatisfactory reporting or unsatisfactory progress against project milestones, not remedied to the satisfaction of the Management Team, may lead to suspension or termination of project funding.

## THE SOIL CRC

The Soil CRC (CRC for High Performance Soils) is bringing together scientists, industry and farmers to find practical solutions for Australia's underperforming soils. It aims to enable farmers to increase their productivity and profitability by providing them with knowledge and tools to improve the performance of their soils. The Soil CRC is the biggest collaborative soil research effort in Australia's history with 40 Participants that contribute \$128 million in cash

and in-kind contributions, along with \$39.5 million from the Australian Government, over 10 years. For this Call (19-1), the Soil CRC is seeking to commit up to \$1.5 million cash over three years for PhD projects across all four programs.

## SOIL CRC PROGRAMS and PARTICIPANTS

The Soil CRC has four research programs:

- **Program 1:** Investing in high performance soils
- **Program 2:** Soil performance metrics
- **Program 3:** New products to increase fertility and function
- **Program 4:** Integrated and precision soil management solutions

### Program 1: Investing in high performance soils

Program Leader: Associate Professor Catherine Allan, Charles Sturt University

P: 02 6051 9781 E: [callan@csu.edu.au](mailto:callan@csu.edu.au)

To encourage good soil stewardship farmers need new mechanisms to capture higher returns from their investment. These mechanisms may include attracting price premiums for their produce, or being paid for provision of ecological services. New and improved approaches to soil management must also be acceptable to the wider society, and require supportive policy and financial frameworks for sustained innovation of new and more cost-effective technologies. This program will review stewardship and market-based incentives for encouraging and supporting sustainable soil management practices. The aim is to embed innovation and improvement in soil management practice, so this program emphasises participatory research and collaborative design methods, alongside decision and bio-economic modelling and traditional social research approaches.

#### **Output 1.1 - User manual for the creation of market based instruments**

Development of a manual that will guide governments, financial institutions and value chain participants in developing and implementing market-based instruments to capture and distribute financial returns from soil stewardship.

#### **Output 1.2 - Interactive online tool to assess the adaptability and feasibility of soil technologies and policy**

Development of an online tool, which will allow policy-makers, entrepreneurs and suppliers to readily assess how new soil products and policies will be taken up and used by farmers. This will allow for rapid prototyping of soil management policy design and product development (industry readiness of tool desired).

#### **Output 1.3 - Cost-benefit assessment of alternative soil management interventions**

This output will support decision-making by enabling farmers to economically assess alternative soil management options. The analysis will occur across a diverse range of regions and livestock and cropping enterprises. The accuracy and utility of existing decision support systems will be improved by linking biological predictive tools to economic risk analysis.

#### **Output 1.4 - Partnership model and resources to support innovative companies**

Design and development of a new partnership model and set of resources focused on soil management and improvement technologies to help innovative and entrepreneurial companies to take new products and services to market.

## Program 2: Soil performance metrics

Program Leader: Associate Professor Richard Doyle, University of Tasmania

P: 03 6226 2622

E: [Richard.Doyle@utas.edu.au](mailto:Richard.Doyle@utas.edu.au)

Without the ability to measure soil performance in a timely and accurate manner, it is difficult for farmers to manage their soil constraints in an adaptive, tailored and cost-effective manner. This program will define the metrics of a high performing soil, then create the instruments for farmers to measure them on-farm. The Soil CRC will use advanced instrumentation, optimisation, sensor/data fusion and big data analytics methodologies, to deliver practical tools ready for farmers to use.

### **Output 2.1 - Key indicators of high performance soils**

Identification of data and thresholds defining a high performance soil and determine key indicators of high performance soils, including microbial functionality across key soil types.

### **Output 2.2 - Sensor networks for on-demand assessment of key soil indicators**

Development of 'use appropriate' sensors to provide actionable information on soil water, nutrients and microbial function. This may include the novel re-configuration of existing sensors or the creation of new sensors to fill any identified technology gaps.

### **Output 2.3 - Intelligent analytics of big data**

Development of back-end capability to analyse raw soil data, and assess the interactions within it, and provide the results to farmers and agronomists. The analytics will be driven by intelligent and machine learning algorithms to process a continuous multi-source data stream.

### **Output 2.4 - Mobile apps to deliver sensor data for day-to-day soil management.**

Development of user-friendly and informative app-based user interfaces in consultation with farmers.

## Program 3: New products to increase fertility and function

Program Leader - Professor Nanthi Bolan, University of Newcastle

P: 02 4913 8750 E: [nanthi.bolan@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:nanthi.bolan@newcastle.edu.au)

A limited range of products is currently available for farmers to manage complex soil constraints. Using soil science, nanotechnology, environmental and analytical chemistry, the Soil CRC will develop new fertilisers, soil amendments and delivery mechanisms for farmers to enhance the performance of their soils. These products will harness conventional intervention approaches and introduce emerging technologies - such as polymers, nanotechnology and biotechnology - as well as using innovative ways to mine nutrients from waste streams.

### **Output 3.1 - New, targeted and high performance fertiliser products**

Identification of the most cost-effective ways of recovering and concentrating nutrients from solid and liquid wastes to create new organic nitrogen fertiliser products that have an immediate and growing market in Australia.

### **Output 3.2 - New, targeted and low residual pesticide delivery systems**

Development of pesticide delivery mechanisms that are more targeted and less wasteful, to reduce off-site impacts of pesticides on cropping systems and the broader environment.

### **Output 3.3 - Novel materials to address surface and subsurface soil constraints**



Development of soil amendments to address constraints such as soil acidity, soil sodicity and poor soil structure without physically disturbing the soil. Novel mechanisms will also be developed for placing amendments at depth while minimising disturbance.

**Output 3.4 - Effective delivery mechanisms for beneficial microorganisms**

Development of delivery systems and seed coatings that increase the effectiveness of desirable, beneficial microorganisms in the soil which help fix nitrogen, protect against root diseases, act as symbionts with plants or produce growth-promoting chemicals.

## Program 4: Integrated and precision soil management solutions

**Program Leader - Lukas Van Zwieten**, NSW Department of Primary Industries

P: 02 6626 1126 E: [lukas.van.zwieten@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lukas.van.zwieten@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Farmers and industry have identified the need for integrated and intelligent on-farm solutions for managing soil constraints. Most farmers face multiple soil constraints, yet much of the substantial research investment over the last two decades was directed at addressing single problems. This program will produce a range of tools that synthesise our current understanding of land management, artificial intelligence, soil science, optimisation and big data analytics, and how that understanding should be applied to the key soil types across Australia.

**Output 4.1 - Novel plant and systems based soil re-engineering methods**

Development of high performance soils based on system/agronomic and rhizosphere re-engineering approaches that include: inter-cropping and cover-cropping, legumes and biofumigants, rhizosphere inoculation and rotations to enable farmers to address difficult and multiple soil constraints while continuing profitable production.

**Output 4.2 - Novel physio-chemical based soil re-engineering methods**

Development of new soil re-engineering methods based on addressing multiple soil chemical and physical constraints using methods such as deep placement of amendments, strategic tillage, application of amendments that change soil physio-chemical properties including clay and organic materials; and lowering crop losses due to plant-back toxicity from herbicides. This output will provide an understanding of the impact of combination and additive approaches.

**Output 4.3 - Universal soil re-engineering decision support tools**

Development of universal decision-support tools based on field-scale evidence. This output will assist farmers and agronomists in identifying the most cost-effective approaches within their constrained systems to develop high performance soils.

## Major Partners, Partners and Associates

These are organisations that hold a formal partnership agreement with the Soil CRC. We have 40 Participants in total, consisting of 11 Major Partners, 11 Partners and 18 Associates. A list of our Participants can be found in Appendix A.

Principal Supervisors are encouraged to download (from the Soil CRC website members' section) and use the Directory of Participants, which includes contacts, brief descriptions, and details of their capabilities and interests in Programs and proposed projects.

## Non-Participant Organisations

Organisations that are not currently a Participant of the Soil CRC are encouraged to partner with our 40 Participants in order to propose /deliver a project that meets the Soil CRC objectives and milestones. However, CRC funds can only be directed to Soil CRC Participants and non-Participant organisations must provide their own funding (cash and/or in-kind contributions).

## PROJECT BUDGETS

Requested budgets are to be entered into the online proposal form.

Participants are encouraged to align part of their in-kind contribution (staff and non-staff) to the Soil CRC with these projects.

### Budget items that may be funded by the Soil CRC

- Student stipend and other admission expenses (tuition fee is expected to be covered by the respective university);
- Research related items (consumables, maintenance, laboratory and fieldwork expenses);
- Travel expenses (e.g. airfares, transport, accommodation);
- Expenses related to obtaining background data and information (e.g. library services, license fees, access fees, data purchases).

### Budget items that cannot be funded by the Soil CRC

- Activities that are not part of the Commonwealth Funded Activities;
- Capital works, purchase or construction of facilities such as buildings or laboratories;
- Renovation or extension of buildings and facilities (unless approved by the Commonwealth in writing);
- Any activities for which the Participants have previously been funded, or are currently being funded by the Australian Government or a State or Territory government either directly or indirectly through any other funding scheme;
- Participant reimbursements for the costs associated with existing staff or other resources committed by the Participant to the Activities as in-kind contributions under the Commonwealth CRC Funding Agreement (20160024);
- Payment to Participants for the indirect support costs of research in relation to cash-funded staff located in their organisation (i.e. indirect and overhead costs); and
- For the indirect support costs of research conducted overseas.

### Budget Categories

The Soil CRC Budget is split into three parts, (A) Soil CRC Cash/Funding requested; (B) Project Participant Contributions to the Project; and (C) Third Party Contributions.

## Part A: Soil CRC Cash/Funding Requested

Cash can be requested for the following categories:

- Scholarships (students);
- Consumables (Operating); and
- Travel.

### A1: Scholarships

Funding for Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students will only be provided to the following limits:

<b>Full Stipend:</b>	\$30,000 per year
<b>Half Stipend</b>	\$15,000 per year
<b>Top-Up Stipend</b>	\$7,500 per year

Student will only be funded for a period of maximum **three years**, with potential to request an extension of 0.5 years, subject to need to extend being satisfactorily justified.

Students must be enrolled at one of the Soil CRC University Participants:

- Charles Sturt University;
- Federation University Australia;
- Griffith University;
- Murdoch University;
- Southern Cross University;
- The University of Newcastle;
- University of Southern Queensland; or
- University of Tasmania.

For each student listed, at minimum, a primary supervisor and organisation must be identified in the proposal.

### A2: Operating

This covers the direct and indirect costs to undertake the project (research). List the type of expense and amount in the correct budget year. Each item is to be listed, an explanation of how the cost was determined and justified as to why it is needed.

### A3: Travel

This covers any travel related to the project. Each item is to be listed, an explanation of how the cost was determined and justified as to why it is needed.

The Soil CRC will accept budgeted rates for travel and accommodation that are consistent with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) reasonable travel allowance rates. See [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au) and refer to the **Taxation Determination TD 2020/5**.

## PART B: Soil CRC Participant Contributions

Note: This section should be read in conjunction with the *Eligible expenditure and participant contribution – Factsheet*, available for downloading from the [CRC Program site](#).

### B1: In-Kind Contributions

When Participants provide staff time and/or incur expenditure supporting Soil CRC activities, this support is recognised as an in-kind contribution. They are non-monetary inputs. These contributions are not funded by the Soil CRC, but incurred by the Participant.

There are a wide range of activities that can be claimed as an in-kind contribution to the Soil CRC. Any activity where an individual or an organisation is undertaking Soil CRC related activities that is not otherwise funded by the Soil CRC (e.g. project fund) is considered in-kind.

In-kind contributions are an essential part of the Soil CRC, which every Participant has agreed to supply in-kind to some degree (via Major Partner, Partner or Associate Agreements).

In-kind contributions can be for any type of support and can be over and above amounts agreed to in the Commonwealth Funding Agreement.

It is important to note that students are not employees of Soil CRC participants therefore, their time is not an allowable contribution and cannot be claimed as staff in-kind or non-staff in-kind contributions, although Participant contributions to their stipend and support costs, including the value of fee waivers, can be claimed.

There are three ways Participants can recognise in-kind contributions:

#### B1.1: Staff In-Kind (FTE) Contributions

**Staff In-kind contributions:** are where Participants contribute their staff member's time to Soil CRC Activities. All costs are incurred by the Participant and measured as FTE. Some examples of in-kind staff contributions:

- **Time** taken for preparation e.g. thought process, gathering documentation, discussions with other parties and time committed to collecting/reporting in-kind.
- **Phone calls** that are made or received relating to Soil CRC activities.
- **Reports** including final reports, annual reports, quarterly reports, research papers and periodicals, etc. this includes preparation time.
- **Letters** and all correspondence relating to the Soil CRC and Participants.
- **Preparation** for travel and attendance at conferences, meetings, anything Soil CRC related.
- **Workshops/Events** attended for project and/or Soil CRC related activities.
- **Preparation and participation in Soil CRC** committee meetings, internal meetings on projects, Board meetings, Participant meetings and working groups.
- **All preparation and discussions** relating to anything to do with Soil CRC and the collective projects participants are or will be involved with.
- **Research** including Internet and/or reading to do with Soil CRC or projects or activities.
- **Supervision** of Soil CRC postgraduate students.

- **Time spent** on Soil CRC activities or projects that is not otherwise funded.
- **Presentations** or attendance at seminars/conferences on relevant topics. Giving advice to the Soil CRC.

All Soil CRC PhD Supervisors are expected to make a commitment of 0.05 FTE in-kind per annum to student supervision (primary and co-supervisors).

Principal Supervisors' (Project Leaders) submitting proposals must enter the FTE values per year for every team member.

In-kind staff contributions are measured and reported as a proportion of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and valued according to the Commonwealth defined fully loaded figure of \$250,000.

For consistency, the Soil CRC adopts a standard of 1.0 FTE = 1,500 hours per annum, based on 7.5 hour day x 200 days. The Soil CRC rounds up any FTE calculations to two decimal places.

## B1.2: Non Staff In-Kind Contributions (Facilities, Equipment, Resources and Student Support Costs)

**Non-staff in-kind (NSIK):** are where participants incur expenses (facilities, equipment and/or services) towards Soil CRC activities that are not otherwise funded.

NSIK includes any expenses incurred by participants that relate to Soil CRC activities that are not otherwise paid by the Soil CRC. This is not an exhaustive list, but provides guidance as to possible contributions.

- **Travel** paid by participants for Soil CRC related business and projects.
- **Use of capital asset** where equipment is used for undertaking Soil CRC activities. This must be valued proportionally to the usage by the Soil CRC and based on the running costs and depreciation of the capital item, as agreed between the contributing Participant and the Soil CRC.
- **Student tuition fee** and other student-related costs paid by the Participant.
- **Publication costs** of information and other documentation relating to Soil CRC activities.
- **Running workshops** relating to Soil CRC activities including venue costs, hospitality, audio visual and other related costs not covered by a Soil CRC project.
- **Participant specific technology, service or property** not otherwise paid for through a Soil CRC project or other agreement (i.e. the use of specific laboratory space or other specialised facilities).

"The full value of equipment and facilities cannot be claimed as NSIK. The NSIK value must be calculated on a pro-rata basis. Valuations of NSIK contributions provided such as, access to large capital items, must be valued proportionally to the usage by the CRC and based on the running costs and depreciation of the capital item. NSIK costs could include fees for access (for example, access to IP, laboratory facilities), only where it would be appropriate for a fee for access to be applied in a commercial environment. **Examples** of NSIK include:

- If a resource has an annual depreciation value of \$100,000 and the CRC was using 10% of the resource's capacity, then the resource could be valued at \$10,000 per year.

- If the fee for usage was \$500 per use and the CRC was receiving 100 usages per year at no cost, the value of the resource could be valued at \$50,000 per year" (DIIS Business, 2018, p. 3).

### B1.3: Cash Contributions

**Cash contributions** is cash that will be directly paid to the CRC by the nominated participant for the project. If these are nominated in the proposal, the Soil CRC will distribute invoices for payment for these as per the project funding agreement conditions.

### PART C: Third Party Contributions

Third parties who are not members of the Soil CRC are able to provide cash, non-staff in kind, or staff in-kind contributions towards a project that they wish to be involved in.

## SPECIFIC PROJECT OUTPUTS

All projects are expected to provide the following to the Soil CRC:

1. **Project Six Monthly Reports** each six months of the student's candidature.

A schedule and template will be provided. This report is expected to detail project milestones progress, findings, options and recommendations. Budget expenditure and in-kind reporting of project participant's time on the project will be required.

2. **Project Final Report** by the project close date.

A template will be provided. This comprehensive report will detail all aspects of the research completed. It is not a public document and will only be made available to Soil CRC Participants.

This final report will include provision of two Fact Sheets: one about the project and one about the project findings. Fact sheets will be made publically available on the Soil CRC website, or be provided to a third party where appropriate. Principal Supervisors are responsible for obtaining appropriate permissions for use of any photographs provided.

3. **Additional Project Outputs** expected may include (subject to approval by the Soil CRC and co-branding with the participating supervisor's organisations before release):
  - Dissertation (unless restrictions are imposed on publishing a student's thesis to protect Project Participant and CRC Confidential Information, Pre-existing Material and CRC IP).
  - Scientific Papers
  - Conference presentations
  - Industry talks, webinars and articles
  - Developed technology (e.g. websites, apps, software)
  - Commercial products

All projects that develop potential commercial outcomes are to be identified to the Soil CRC so that commercialisation pathways can be proposed and discussed.

## SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Principal supervisors are responsible for the following in this project call:

- Make any recommended changes to project proposals as requested by the Soil CRC.
- Obtain approvals and secure access to required research facilities.
- Deliver research outputs and outcomes on time and to budget.
- Support students to engage in the Soil CRC PhD student cohort and activities.
- Identify and report all Intellectual Property (IP) and commercialisation potential.
- Inform the Soil CRC of any project delays or required variations as they occur (either submitted in project quarterly reports, or immediately if urgent outside of the reporting period).
- Acknowledge the Soil CRC project support and use their logos:
  - in any public statements about the Project
  - on the home page of any web site established in connection with the Project.
- Seek prior consent of the Soil CRC on any public announcement about the project and to use the logo as set out in the branding guidelines.
- Seek prior consent for all publications arising from the project including (i) peer reviewed journal article, (ii) conference presentations and (iii) Industry talks and articles.

## SAFE AND ETHICAL RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS

All Soil CRC research undertaken involving humans or animals must observe and comply with all relevant ethics codes and guidelines adopted by the Australian Research Council (ARC), National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) and all other relevant regulatory agencies operating in Australia and any place in which the research is being conducted.

Principal Supervisors and students are expected to:

- identify the need for ethics and / or safety approvals;
- arrange ethics / safety approval through constituted ethics / safety committees established at higher education institutions, Federal or State research organisations; and
- provide written evidence of approval to the Soil CRC when obtained.

## RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS

All Soil CRC research conducted must confirm to the principles outlined in:

- the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018);
  - and, if applicable,
- the NHMRC/ARC/AVCC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2018).

All participants involved in research must:

- understand and promote the responsible conduct of research;
- maintain high standards of responsible research;
- report research responsibly;
- respect all research participants;
- respect animals used in research;
- respect the environment;
- report research misconduct; and,
- have procedures in place for dealing with instances of suspected or alleged research misconduct, which are consistent with the principles.

## GUIDE FOR ONLINE PROPOSAL FORM

To be populated once EOI is finalised

## SOIL CRC HEAD OFFICE CONTACTS

**Further information:** can be obtained from:

The relevant **Program Leader** [contact details listed with research programs]

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO):**

Dr Michael Crawford, E: [michael.crawford@soilcra.com.au](mailto:michael.crawford@soilcra.com.au) P: 02 4921 7840

**Research Administration Team:**

E: [projects@soilcra.com.au](mailto:projects@soilcra.com.au)

## WEB ADDRESSES

**Soil CRC General Website**

<https://www.soilcra.com.au/>

**Members Area** – Important Soil CRC documents for Members

<https://www.soilcra.com.au/members-login/>

**SoilCentral** - Online proposal form

<https://soilcentral.soilcra.com.au/>



## APPENDIX A: SOIL CRC PARTICIPANTS\*

Participant Name	Partner Type	Location
Australian Organics Recycling Association Limited	Partner	Aus. Wide, Grose Vale NSW, Australia
Birchip Cropping Group Inc.	Partner	Birchip, VIC, Australia
Burdekin Productivity Services Limited	Associate	Ayr, QLD, Australia
Corrigin Farm Improvement Group	Associate	Corrigin, WA, Australia
Charles Sturt University	Major Partner	Wagga Wagga, NSW, Australia
Central West Farming Systems Inc.	Associate	Condobolin, NSW, Australia
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions(AG VIC)	Partner	Melbourne, VIC, Australia
AIR EP (previously Eyre Peninsula Agricultural Research Foundation Inc.)	Associate	Minnipa, SA, Australia
Facey Group Inc.	Partner	Wickepin, WA, Australia
Farmlink Research Limited	Associate	Temora NSW, Australia
Federation University Australia	Major Partner	Ballarat, VIC, Australia
The Gillamii Centre	Associate	Cranbrook, WA, Australia
Griffith University	Major Partner	Nathan, QLD, Australia
Hart Field Site Group Incorporated	Associate	Between Blyth & Brinkworth, SA, Australia
Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd	Associate	Ingham, QLD, Australia
Holbrook Landcare Group	Associate	Holbrook, NSW, Australia
Landcare Research NZ (Manaaki Whenua)	Major Partner	Lincoln, South Island, New Zealand
Nutrien Ag Solutions (previously Landmark Operations Limited)	Associate	Aus. Wide, Australia
The Liebe Group Inc.	Associate	Dalwallinu, WA, Australia
MacKillop Farm Management Group Inc.	Associate	Keith, SA, Australia
Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc.	Associate	Irymple, VIC, Australia
Murdoch University	Major Partner	Perth, WA, Australia
North Central Catchment Management Authority	Partner	Huntly, VIC, Australia
NSW Environmental Protection Authority (NSW EPA)	Partner	Various locations within NSW
Department of Industry Skills and Regional Development	Major Partner	Sydney, SW, Australia
Department of Primary Industries and Regions	Partner	Adelaide, SA, Australia
Riverine Plains Incorporated	Associate	Mulwala, NSW, Australia
South Australian Grain Industry Trust Fund	Major Partner	Goodwood, SA, Australia
Southern Cross University	Major Partner	Lismore, NSW, Australia
South East Water Corporation	Partner	Seaford, VIC, Australia
Soils for Life Trust	Partner	Aus. wide, Canberra, ACT, Australia
Southern Farming Systems Ltd	Associate	Inverleigh, VIC, Australia
Southern Precision Agriculture Association (SPAA) Inc.	Associate	Mildura, VIC, Australia
The University of Newcastle	Major Partner	Newcastle, NSW, Australia
University of Southern Queensland	Major Partner	Toowoomba, QLD, Australia
University of Tasmania	Major Partner	Hobart, TAS, Australia
Western Australian No-Tillage Farmers Association (Inc.)	Partner	Floreat, WA, Australia
Wimmera Catchment Authority	Partner	Horsham, VIC, Australia
Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Incorporated	Associate	Northam, WA, Australia
West Midlands Group Incorporated	Associate	Dandaragan, WA, Australia

\*Further information about Soil CRC participants can be found in the Participant Capability and Contacts document which is available on the Members Login page of the Soil CRC [website](#).

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