



Performance through collaboration

Communique



28 November 2019

Soil CRC Strategic Plan 2019-2023

The [Soil CRC Strategic Plan for 2019-2023](#) was launched at the Soil CRC Annual General Meeting in Sydney yesterday. The plan outlines the strategic objectives and priorities for the Soil CRC over the next four years (years three to six) of our ten-year CRC. There are five high level strategies, under which are listed a number of objectives, expected outcomes and actions:

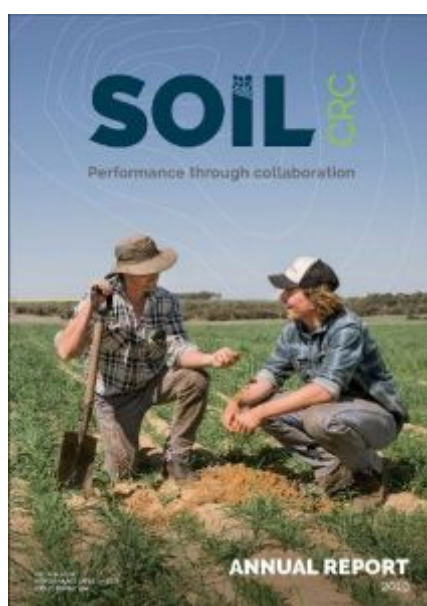
1. Research
2. Adoption
3. Capability and capacity building
4. Partnerships and leadership
5. Governance and management

The plan was developed by the Board with input from Program Leaders and staff, and reflects many of the suggestions and ideas suggested by Soil CRC participants in meetings and interactions over the first two years of the CRC. The plan provides a framework that will guide us to deliver on the aspirations of the CRC.

You will find the [Strategic Plan](#) on the [Soil CRC website](#), and a hard copy will be posted to each participant organisation. Please have a good read of the plan. If you have any questions, I am happy to discuss or you can chat with a Program Leader or Board member.

Annual Report

The Annual General Meeting and Participants Meeting was held in Sydney yesterday with senior representatives of the members and many of our participants attending either in person or by video conference. Both the Chair and I highlighted the progress and achievements in the 2018-19 financial year, headlined by the approval and commencement of 24 major projects. All attendees received a copy of the [Annual Report](#) which can also be found on our website. A hard copy will be posted to each of our participant organisations.



Year in Review

In addition to the formal Annual Report, we have also produced a ['Year in Review'](#) which provides a high level snapshot of our achievements, case studies of four projects, and a [short video](#). It tells a great story of the last year of the Soil CRC, and we hope you find it useful to share amongst those inside and out of your organisations who have an interest in the Soil CRC.



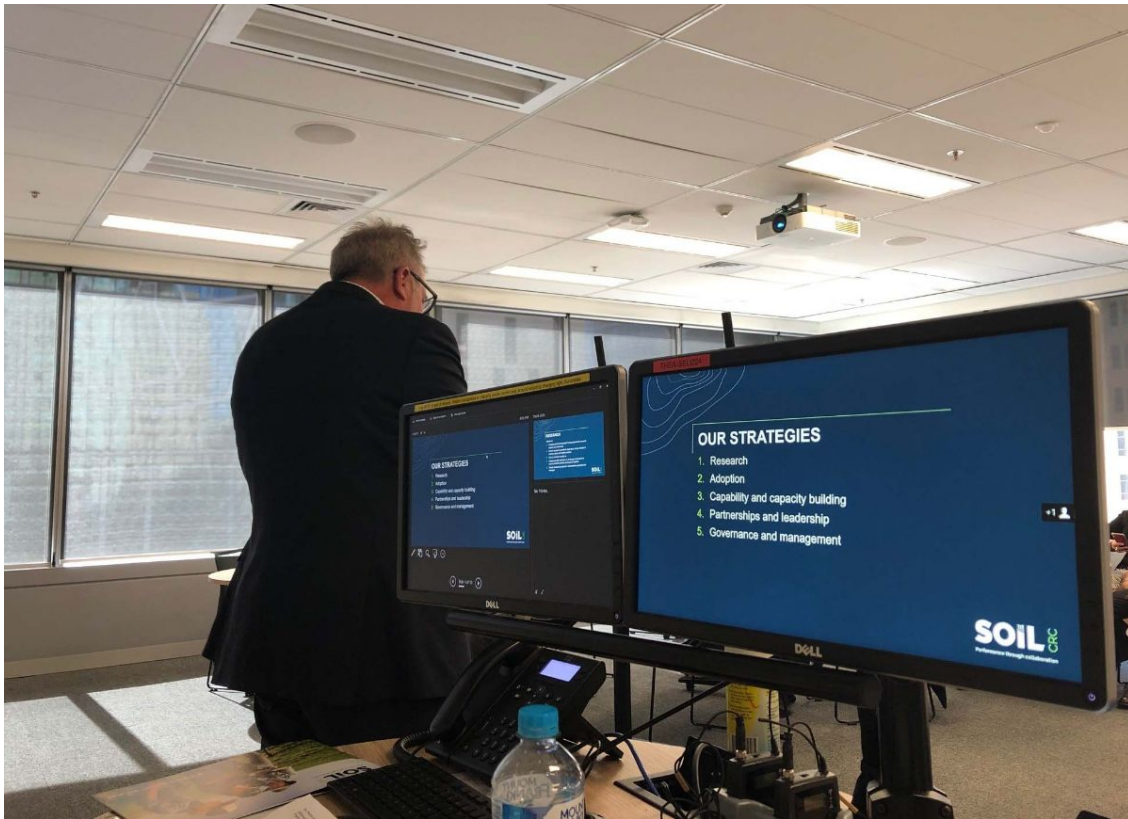
Watch our Year in Review

Appointment of Directors

In accordance with the Constitution of the CRC for High Performance Soils Limited, the first three appointed Directors 'retired' at the second AGM yesterday, along with Di Parsons who stepped down earlier this year. The nomination of Steve Carr by Facey Group, was approved by the members to replace Di Parsons as the representative of the Partners and Associates Collectives. Steve is from Western Australia and is the Manager of Aglime of Australia and Precision SoilTech and will bring a soil industry perspective as well as a farmer perspective. Ralph Hardy re-nominated and was approved as an independent director, bringing a finance and commercial skillset to the Board.

There were four nominations for the two non-independent director vacancies representing the Major Partners. Following a secret ballot, Malcolm Buckby (SAGIT) was reappointed to the Board and a new Director, Andrea Bishop (Griffith University) was elected. We welcome Andrea and Stephen to the Board and look forward to their input over the coming years.

We also thank outgoing Director, Kevin Hall (University of Newcastle) for his significant contribution, both to the Board, and importantly, for his contribution to the development and successful funding of the Soil CRC. As Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Newcastle, Kevin was instrumental in leading the bid development in 2016-17 and securing the cash and in-kind contribution of Newcastle, including the provision of accommodation for the CRC's head office.



Behind the scenes at the AGM held in Sydney, 27 November.

2020 Soil CRC Participants Conference

Following the success of the inaugural 2019 Soil CRC Participants Conference in Newcastle, planning is underway for the 2020 Conference. The conference will be held in Adelaide making it more accessible to a greater number of Soil CRC participants, especially those in Western Australia. The proposed dates are 26-28 March, subject to securing a venue. The first day will be devoted to project meetings and a student forum, the second day for research updates and adoption insights and the third day for program planning and operational aspects of the CRC. Watch for further updates and please save the date (**26-28 March 2020**) for this important conference.

2020 Major Investment Round (Call 20-1)

As announced on 5 November, the next Major Investment Round (Call 20-1) is now open with proposals due on 10 February 2020. Priorities are highly targeted towards areas that allow the CRC to continue to meet its Commonwealth Funding Agreement milestones, while also positioning the CRC to help farmers meet the challenges associated with the changing climatic conditions towards a generally drier and warmer climate.

Please engage with the relevant Program Leader to explore opportunities for leading or being involved in a collaborative proposal to address a priority in which you and your organisation may be interested. As always, the [Guidelines for Proposals](#) can also be found on the member area of our website and proposals submitted via [SoilCentral](#).

World Soil Day - December 5

The United Nations officially declared 5 December as World Soil Day in 2014. The aim is to raise

awareness of the importance of healthy soils and the challenges of good soil management across the globe. The campaign for 2019 is “Stop soil erosion, Save our future”.

We would love to see what you are up to on social media next Thursday. Maybe you are holding a workshop for your project, or maybe you are getting together with your soil loving colleagues to celebrate with a mud cake (pun intended). Please tag us (@SoilCRC on [Twitter](#) or @Soil CRC on [LinkedIn](#)) and use the **#WorldSoilDay** or **#StopSoilErosion** hashtags. If you don't have an active social media account, you can text your photos to Katherine Seddon on 0433 812 889 and she will post them on our Soil CRC accounts.

Here's more information from the UN on [World Soil Day](#).

Other CEO activities

I attended the Soil Science Society of America annual conference in San Antonio, Texas in early November. It was held in conjunction with the Agronomy Society of America and the Crop Science Society of America. There were 4000 delegates, and it was a great opportunity to be exposed to the latest soil R&D coming out of the USA that might be relevant to the Soil CRC. I was able to gain some insight into who are the leading researchers in relevant areas, and to make contacts that might be of collaborative value to the Soil CRC.

I heard snapshots of research related to soil carbon sequestration, soil health indicators, soil sensor technologies, data science and soil data management amongst others. I also heard about a number of collaborative initiatives aiming to have farmers, industry and scientists working closer together to undertake R&D to improve soil health and management. It was encouragingly familiar to the Soil CRC and I made some linkages which we will follow up on.



At the Soil Science Society of America conference in San Antonio

Michael

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Conferences

- Soil CRC Participants Conference, Adelaide SA, 26-28 March 2020 (TBC)
- [State of Soil Science WA](#), Perth WA, 4-6 December 2019
- [Australian Organics Recycling Association 2020 Annual Conference](#), Hunter Valley NSW, 1-3 April 2020. Abstracts close 29 November (Tomorrow!)

Contact list

We forward this communicate directly to staff in our Participant organisations who we believe should be receiving communications about the CRC. If you do not wish to receive communications directly, please unsubscribe. If there are others who wish to be on the list, please forward their names to Kathy Stokes at kathy.stokes@soilcrc.com.au.

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