

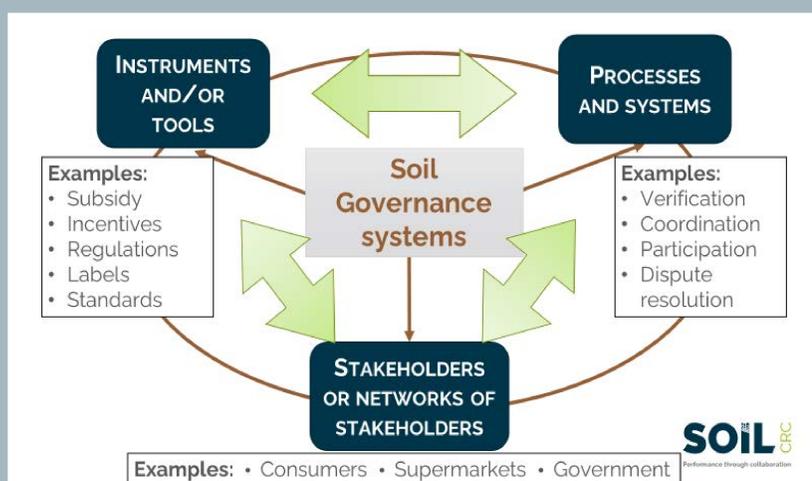
Encouraging Soil Stewardship through the Consumer Market - Soil Governance

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Australian Soil Governance

Australia's current soil governance instruments and processes are currently inadequate. They fail to connect the social and ecological dimensions of environmental management, and lack coordination across regions and levels of government.



The Research Need

Inappropriate soil management techniques are permitted and incentivised by current soil governance, causing widespread land and soil degradation, instead of promoting soil stewardship management practices.

Government and non-government parties need to work together to develop governance arrangements that support a diversity of best practice agricultural business models.

My research investigates stakeholder perspectives about supporting soil stewardship certification by amending legislation and government policy to encourage soil stewardship through market activation.

Preliminary Finding and Future Research Focus

Soil Governance – a working definition

Soil Governance could be:

Collaborative, flexible, coordinated, interacting multi-scalar, multi-jurisdictional, multi-level instruments and/or tools and systems and/or processes undertaken by varied, diverse stakeholders, including institutions and policy actors.

Certification, Verification and the Market

The certification of soil impact information (i.e., soil stewardship practices) on product labels can be both a tool and process of soil governance used to inform consumers about agriculture's impact on land and soil to reward farmers who utilize soil stewardship practices.



Doctrinal legal research and interpretive stakeholder interviews will interrogate what soil governance instruments and processes can encourage soil stewardship practices using product labels in the consumer market.