

The SA Soils Scoop

with LUCY PORTER

Building networks and sharing knowledge about the health and management of South Australian soils

The SA Regional Soils Coordinator role is part of a national network of Regional Soil Coordinators (RSC), *supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program under the Natural Heritage Trust.*

The Regional Soil Coordinators work across all levels of industry to understand stakeholder needs and engage with regional and national networks to build the knowledge base and capacity in soil management. The RSCs aim to help inform, protect and develop healthy soils within agricultural systems.

Hi There,

It's been an exciting spring. I've had an exciting trip to Minnipa Ag Centre Field Day, celebrating the 110th year. It was fantastic to meet many of the upper EP farmers, advisors and researchers. Soil themes were discussed across all presentations across the day, among topics of carbon emissions, residual herbicides, weed management and fertiliser decisions. Lentil discussions were very topical, and there were great discussions regarding the management of lentils on sandy rises within paddocks. Key messaging was that if wheat and barley struggle to get up there, so will lentils, and there will be less crop residue there over summer which increases your erosion risk. It was fantastic to hear farmers discussing methods they were trying to mitigate that risk with through their personal trials and error over lunch, including keeping stock out of the paddocks to preserve the stubble that remains as long as possible. For information on all the research happening on the at Minnipa and beyond, check out the annual Eyre Peninsula farming systems summary here:

- Eyre Peninsula farming systems summaries - Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia - PIRSA



I've been fortunate enough to visit two trial sites if the "integrating spatial data and soil phosphorus tests for improved phosphorus (P) management within paddocks" trials, one on the Yorke Peninsula and one at Minnipa. This project uses pH mapping and spatial Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) to create a P sufficiency index, and identify whether an area is more likely to be responsive or unresponsive to applied P. Check out more information on the project here:

- phosphorus | SAGIT
- Integrating spatial data and long-term strategies for improved phosphorus fertiliser management - GRDC

It is exciting to see a new tender opportunity from GRDC A Soils Educational Opportunity - GRDC seeking to invest in increasing soil



educational and extension resources focused on soil. They seek applicants to develop resources to enhance understanding of the production capacity of soils and how on-farm soil and nutrient management practices can improve their sustainability and profitability utilising current and emerging information. I'm excited to see what comes in this space to empower farmers to improve their soil understanding.

The National Soil Monitoring Program (NSMP) is a key deliverable of the National Soil Action Plan, supporting Australia's efforts to improve soil health and resilience. The NSMP has been supported by funding through the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) in collaboration with CSIRO. In partnership with DAFF, CSIRO is leading the project nationally, with South Australian delivery coordinated by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board. Recently CSIRO provided training to the local data collection team. This project will collect nationally consistent regionally relevant data for long term monitoring, which will be accessible through the Australian National Soil Information System Australian National Soil Information System, and used to help land managers inform their soil management practices by providing insight into the longer-term impact of land use and management. This will enable evidence-based decision-making to improve soil, boost sustainability and climate resilience of agriculture, protect the environment and assist in increasing the confidence of data used for National and International reporting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

National Soil Monitoring Program - CSIRO.





EVENTS

October Events

11 **Koonamore Vegetation Reserve 100 year celebrations - Yunta** Koonamore Vegetation Reserve 100-year celebrations

13 **SA Drought Hub Water Use Efficiency Soils Project Development workshops - Wudinna,** Register directly with rowena.norris@airep.com.au

13 **Property Planning for better land stewardship with Nic Kentish – Woodside** Stewardship in Action | Humanitix

14 **SA Drought Hub Water Use Efficiency Soils Project Development workshops - Cummins,** Register directly with rowena.norris@airep.com.au

15 **SA Drought Hub Water Use Efficiency Soils Project Development workshops – Watervale** (Watervale Consultation Workshop - SA Drought Hub Resilient Soils Project Tickets, Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite)

15 **NSS Spring Crop Walk – near Bute** (1) Facebook

15 **Stock Containment - learnings from this season, eID update and the Stabilising Soil Project – Karoonda** Stock Containment - learnings from this season, eID update and the Stabilising Soil Project KAROONDA

15 **Buckleboo Farm Improvement Group Crop Walk - Kimba** BFIG Crop Walk (15 October 2025) | AIR EP

15 **Bordertown spring field walk –** Bordertown Bordertown Spring Field Walk - GRDC

17 **SA Drought Hub Water Use Efficiency Soils Project Development workshops – Tailem Bend** Tailem Bend Consultation Workshop - SA Drought Hub Resilient Soils Project Tickets, Fri, Oct 17, 2025 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite)

21 **Feed and Figures –** exploring economics of production on sandy soils -Tintinara

21 **Spring twilight walk –** Hart Hart Spring Twilight Walk 2025 Tickets, Tue 21/10/2025 at 5:00 pm | Eventbrite

23 **Beginners guide to carbon farming – Hindmarsh Valley** Calculate your farm emissions with Todd Price - 23 October

24 **Field Day – SA Crop technology Centre Hatherleigh** Field Day – SA Crop Technology Centre - GRDC

25 **Young in Soil and Earth Sciences Soil Pit Day - Krondorf, Barossa Valley** Krondorf Soil Pit Day Tickets, Sunrise Bakery & Cafe, Lyndoch | TryBooking Australia

EVENTS

October Events, cont...

27 **The future of carbon farming – market expectations and opportunities meat industry focus - Mt Gambier** The Future of Carbon Farming -... | Limestone Coast Landscape Board

28 **Soil Network of Knowledge webinar Soil Biological Indicators - online** Registration

28 **The future of carbon farming – market expectations and opportunities grain industry focus - Bordertown** The Future of Carbon Farming -... | Limestone Coast Landscape Board

29 **The future of carbon farming – market expectations and opportunities meat industry focus -Naracoorte** The Future of Carbon Farming -... | Limestone Coast Landscape Board

29 **SA Livestock Adviror update – Adelaide** 2025 SA Livestock Advisor Update | Meat & Livestock Australia

30 **SAAL Carbon for productivity – webinar series (pastoral focus) Webinar 1: From Policy to Paddock in Grazing and Pastoral Businesses** Carbon for Productivity - webinar series

November Events

6 **SAAL Carbon for productivity – webinar series (pastoral focus) Webinar 2: Practical Steps to Stay Ahead of the Curve** Carbon for Productivity - webinar series

19/20 **MLA Updates** https://url.au.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/6rMRClx14mu2y075mHlUWuzWdwh?domain=info.mla.com.au

25-28 **Soil Judging Competition Armidale NSW** Soil Judging - Soil Science Australia

27-28 **APSIM Advanced Training Workshops Adelaide** https://events.csiro.au/Events/2025/February/5/APSIM-Advance-Training-2025

28 **Summer stickybeak Friday – Mount Schank/ Mount Gambier** Events - Summer Sticky Beak Friday - Mount Schank / Mount Gambier

December Events

1 **CSIRO 30 years of APSIM Networking Event - Adelaide** 30 Years of APSIM - Networking Event - CSIRO

4 **Cultivating connections World Soil Day – Waite campus, Adelaide** https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/cultivating-connections-world-soil-day-celebration-and-networking-tickets-1666112831329

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SMART SOILS FOR AGRICULTURE

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Future Drought Fund

SA DROUGHT HUB

THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE

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The network of Regional Soils Coordinators are members of the Smart Soils National Community of Practice convened by Soil Science Australia.

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